

After months of talks, a marriage is arranged with AT&T □ Partners agree not to compete with each other in their own domestic markets

BT in \$10bn link-up with US giant

Simon Beavis
Media Business Editor

BITISH Telecom yesterday ended a 14-year search for a significant US partner when it entered a \$10 billion international alliance with America's biggest phone company, AT&T.

The marriage of two of the world's largest and most established phone companies — both of which have struggled to compete with newer more entrepreneurial groups — followed months of discussion and eight weeks of intense negotiations.

It will see the two mono-

liths trying to grab the leading spot in providing multinational telecommunications services — a market which is said to be worth \$40 billion already and is forecast to grow to \$200 billion early in the next century.

At the heart of the joint venture are plans to use a new network based on Internet protocol for the transmission of corporate traffic.

The technology, expected to be ready to serve up to 100 cities worldwide within three years, will allow companies to have fast and efficient voice and data services wherever they are located.

BT has suffered a long



BT chief executive Sir Peter Bonfield said that the alliance saw 'two great brands standing shoulder to shoulder'



series of setbacks trying to break into the American market despite a campaign which started soon after its privatisation in 1984.

Its blighted efforts culminated last year when BT was ignominiously defeated in a \$3 billion bid to buy MCI, the second largest long distance operator in the US.

Yesterday's deal will not give BT a share of the local US phone industry, even

though, until yesterday, this was a central goal of BT's US ambitions. But it ties the group to America's biggest distance operator.

The two companies appear to have agreed not to compete against each other in their own domestic markets although the two sides were coy about the precise nature of the agreement.

However, the joint venture will have to cross a number of

regulatory hurdles before it can go ahead and may not be cleared for up to a year.

It will be intensely scrutinised by competition authorities in the UK, Brussels, and Washington, where it must pass muster with both the Department of Justice and the Federal Communications Commission.

Hailing the deal yesterday, BT's chief executive, Sir Peter Bonfield, described the alli-

ance as "two great brands standing shoulder to shoulder".

At no stage was a full merger between the two companies discussed, he stressed.

He promised the 50/50 tie-up would change the dynamics of the telecom industry at a time when the majority of the world's telecom markets were being liberalised.

The new venture would post revenues of \$10 billion in

the first year and profits of \$1 billion. Profits would grow at between 15 and 20 per cent a year.

Although the new venture is exclusively aimed at the corporate market, Sir Peter said that in the long run it could benefit British consumers by lowering BT's costs and allowing it to cut call charges more quickly.

The new business will initially be based in the US and will employ 5,000 worldwide, and its board will be chaired for two years by BT's chairman, Sir Iain Vallance.

It will incorporate BT's \$2.3 billion Concert business, set up with MCI to serve multinational clients, and AT&T's own \$5.5 billion business

serving big international firms.

AT&T has recently come out of a period of stagnation to pull off some spectacular deals. A fortnight ago, it announced it was to buy TCI, one of America's biggest cable TV groups which has links with the BBC.

John Ziegler, president, said the deal would not involve significant job losses, although cost savings of some \$3 billion were in the offing through sharing of technology and other costs.

The telecom watchdog Ofcom said it would seek early meetings with BT.

BT siege breaks down US barrier, page 12

Train firm bans sacked woman driver

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

A WOMAN train driver has been banned from using Connex trains after winning a case against the company for wrongful dismissal and sexual discrimination.

Several days after her complaints were upheld by an industrial tribunal, Jayne Chatterton, a 37-year-old driver with nine years' experience, was told by a local manager at Eastbourne station that she was not allowed to board a train to Brighton. He said that she was also banned from all other Connex trains — which operate throughout south-east England — and from using all the company's premises.

Ms Chatterton, who lives at Eastbourne, said she ignored the threat and continued her journey. "I have no intention of obeying the ban," she said. "The company is carrying out a vendetta against me for wholly unfounded reasons. It is trying to persecute me unfairly. I have done nothing wrong."

Her solicitors have written to the company demanding to know the reasons for the unprecedented ban.

Ms Chatterton's troubles with Connex began in March last year when the train she was driving from Eastbourne to London Victoria hit the buffers at 10 miles an hour. The official reports from Connex management exonerated her from blame. The reports state that a spring had broken in the braking system while Ms Chatterton's train was ap-



Jayne Chatterton, who describes the ban on her travelling by Connex as a vendetta and says she will take no notice of it

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW HASSON

proaching Victoria and that "no fault could be attributed to the driving of the train".

Within minutes of the incident, Ms Chatterton was subjected to a breathalyser test on the platform in full view of the passengers. This is a mandatory rule and she did not object, but she thought that the test could have been carried out in private.

Later she was escorted to a room at Victoria by two off-

icials and ordered to give a urine sample in a lavatory to test for drugs. She was made to carry out the test in front of a male official. But the rules state that a female should have been present. She was told there was no time. Both tests proved negative.

Ms Chatterton said that she was suspended for five days pending the results of the tests and was then asked to do guard duties. She refused be-

cause she was concerned about the safety aspect of the job.

The company then offered her office work, which she accepted. She was sacked on medical grounds last October.

During her career, which started with Scot Rail, she had an unblemished record, and even had to cope with two suicides on the track.

Lew Adams, leader of the train drivers' union Aslef,

said last night: "Jayne has an exemplary record as a driver, but she clearly has been picked upon by Connex. The union will continue to support her and insists that the ban should be lifted".

Ms Chatterton said that she had lost her Connex pension and was still looking for work in the industry. But having gone through an industrial tribunal, from which she is still waiting to receive com-

pensation, she thought it would be difficult. "Train driving is a wonderful job. It has paid me £24,000 a year and beats working in a supermarket for a £100 a week."

Connex, which employs 750 male and 12 female drivers, said last night that it was not able to comment on the case until the industrial tribunal judgment was published in full. This is not expected to happen for several weeks.

'High-roller' BBC chief under fire

Vikram Dodd

THE outgoing vice-chairman of the BBC has accused its chairman, Sir Christopher Blundell, of presiding over a "culture of extravagance" at the corporation.

Lord Cocks has revealed he had a two-year-long running battle with Sir Christopher over his allegedly high-handed treatment of the BBC's board of governors.

Lord Cocks, a former Labour chief whip, told the Sunday Times: "From the moment I walked into Broadcasting House in 1993, I was aware of two intense pressures to suck me into a culture of extravagance."

He said he declined a chauffeur-driven car, which had been used by his predecessor as vice-chairman, Lord Barnett, at a cost of £200,000 over seven years.

Lord Cocks said this was equal to 2,500 licence fees and he preferred to take the bus to work instead.

He also claimed that in 1997-8, Sir Christopher cost the BBC £257,000. His fee was £75,000, on top of which there was tax at £5,000, staff at £33,000, expenses of £55,000, fixed office costs of £51,000, and variable office costs at £39,000.

Lord Cocks says this was two-thirds "of the grand total cost of all the other governors."

Lord Cocks accused the chairman of causing conflict with his board of governors by his rude and insulting behaviour.

Lord Cocks, who leaves his post at the end of this month, said that he treated the BBC governors as "commercial underlings who could be hired or fired at will".

He said that Sir Christopher would be rude to governors and criticise them in

front of management. "I remonstrated about this in private. On one occasion, he told me the governors would have to 'shape up'."

"I replied that I had managed to chair governors' meetings without treating people like pieces of shit. Eventually, he got the message that the governors were not prepared to sit there and be insulted."

Last week Labour extended Sir Christopher's term as chairman by two years, thus boosting his power at the BBC.

Lord Cocks says the chairman tried to dominate the board, and the two never got on after their first meeting over lunch at the House of Lords in 1996, after Sir Christopher's appointment.

The outgoing vice-chairman claims the chairman has most caused damage to the BBC in a note to Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker of the House of Commons, about the fate of the Yesterday in Parliament radio programme.

Lord Cocks said: "Sir Christopher was in the habit of dashing off replies without sufficient consideration."

"I rang the Speaker's secretary and managed to get the letter back, unopened."

A BBC spokeswoman said Sir Christopher would not respond to Lord Cocks's allegations about him.

She denied Lord Cocks's claims of a culture of extravagance. "As far as his predecessor's car goes, that cost would only be true if the car was used constantly, but it was not. It was a pool, so that cost was defrayed."

"The figure of £257,000 for the chairman includes his fee of £75,000, and the costs are part of corporate expenses and include BBC events he may host."

The spokeswoman added: "As chairman, Sir Christopher runs a very tight ship."

Police stop black people at 'staggering' rate, says report

continued from page 1

and Wales have arrest rates for black people which are lower than that peak rate.

In seven forces the rate of arrest for black people exceeds 200 per 1,000. Sussex (212), Kent (232), the Met (231), Norfolk (231), Staffordshire (231), Merseyside (205) and Dyfed Powys (205).

"These arrest rates are the equivalent of arresting one in every five black people in the period, assuming that the same person is not arrested on more than one occasion," the report says.

Earlier this year the Home Office published stop and search figures based on research in 10 forces, while the Statewatch research uses figures from all 43 forces in England and Wales. The report is critical of the response of law enforcement agencies to the figures.

"The Government and the police say that the figures are either unreliable or subject to interpretation," the report says. "It is not a situation which inspires confidence in police community relations."

Chris Myant, a spokesman for the Commission for Racial Equality, said the figures merely confirmed the daily experience for black people for decades. "It is good that at last official figures let society see what is happening to ordinary citizens in the streets every day," he said.

Mr Myant said the figures for young black men stopped were "ludicrously high", explaining the alienation highlighted by the Stephen Lawrence inquiry.

Statewatch, which monitors police affairs throughout Europe, recently won the European Freedom of Information award.

Stop, search... and arrest

Stop and search of black people	
Merseyside	189 per 1,000
Met	141
Cleveland	135
Dyfed Powys	118
Annual average 10 per 1,000	
Arrests of black people	
Sussex	242 per 1,000
Met	232
Met	231
Met	231
Staffordshire	221
Dyfed Powys	206
Merseyside	205

Truly, madly Flatley to the end

Review

John Cunningham

Feet of Flames
Hyde Park, London

MICHAEL FLATLEY has done for Irish dance what Irish theme pubs have done for the old country's second most sacred tradition — drinking. Just as the dreary and the dowdy have been banished from bars now sporting names in Celtic script, so Flatley has given traditional dance a makeover.

But before the breweries decide it's time the refurbished Mother O'Muckles give way to the next trend, Flatley has decided to move on while he's one tap — or perhaps three —

ahead, to boxing or the movies.

The 40-year-old Irish-American dancer bowed out in a techno Celtic twilight before a sell-out crowd of 25,000 in Hyde Park on Saturday, truly, madly Flatley to the end.

There was a theme of sorts in this one-off performance, titled Feet of Flames: the struggle between good and evil, with colleens rescued and warriors repulsed by the Lord of the Dance, whom even flames and smoke could not annihilate.

No point wasting words picking holes in that electronic cod-tapestry of myth; the fans were there to see that designer shiny torso and the fastest feet in the West. Even a sourpuss sickened by the slickness — the show was block-bustingly packaged for TV and video — must admire the way Flatley has taken a

rigid, repressed dance form and Viagra-ed it with the passion and sexual assertiveness of flamenco.

But the Lord of the Golden Mane and the Silver Heels, whose black-leather-clad bottom was projected on two giant screens at the side of the stage even while he was playing the flute, still retains the grid pattern — the framework of Irish dance. He is credited with creating, choreographing, producing and directing the company of more than 60 dancers.

Traditionally, in such routines the upper body is held stiff as a stone saint while the thighs, knees and ankles move at any angle as if they had hallbearers in the joints. Indeed, you could say a decade of the rosary or, less piously, read a chunk of James Joyce while dancing a jig, so long as you kept your torso straight.

Flatley's innovation was to dare to raise his arms; now his dancers embrace and cradle each other in balletic movements. It's all engaging, energetic stuff, so full of colour that in would-be menacing sequences, the warriors looked more fun than fierce in their purplish combat pants.

But the women! Yes, they kicked their legs and showed their modest knickers in a quasi-religious can-can. But the black tights recalled the temptation-proof stockings worn by generations of girls attending the dance classes of Sister Mary Merciless at St Columbine's convent, circa 1950.

Forget Flatley's own sexual strutting, it's the sheer wholesomeness of the corps of dancers that most captivates. Feet of Flames will be the Christmas video treat for nuns everywhere.

A very long job

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Tiny Rowland dies



Tiny Rowland and Mohamed al Fayed make peace beneath the giant shark in Harrods Food Hall in October 1993. The celebrated truce was not to last long. PHOTOGRAPH: STEFAN ROUSSEAU

The feud only death could end

Alex Brummer reports on acrimonious business brawl with Fayed that proved to be better than any fiction

THE unexpected death of Tiny Rowland brings an abrupt halt to the most acrimonious business feud ever fought in Britain. Rowland's 13-year war with the Egyptian-born Harrods owner, Mohamed al Fayed, was a real-life business brawl, better than anything which fiction like Jeffrey Archer's Kane and Abel could produce. Although there were celebrated truces, like the brief moment in October 1993 when the two enemies came together like old buddies to make peace beneath the giant shark bearing the name "Tiny" in the Harrods Food Hall, the hatred and distrust between the men lingered until Rowland's last days. It was as if Rowland, who was forcibly divorced from Lornho in 1995 — the global business empire he created — found solace in his final days in seeking to heap ignominy on his old foe.

In the past two years Rowland, having already effectively blocked Fayed from becoming a British citizen, by forcing the publication of the landmark 1993 Department of Trade and Industry report on the rise of the Fayed, was determined to hound the enemy to the grave — although it came to him first. In typically flamboyant style, Rowland collected in glossy boxes a set labelled "Mohamed Fayed 4th time lucky? A compendium on the life of the citizen of Egypt, Haiti and the United Arab Emirates" — 16 documents covering every aspect of the Fayed — and dispatched them to every opinion leader who might be interested. In essence they were the final testimony to an elderly man's obsession about his failure to capture the only trophy which he was never able to possess: Harrods. Rowland found it impos-

sible to resist twisting the tail of the "Phoney Pharaoh", as the classic March 1989 mid-week edition of the Observer labelled him after receiving a leaked copy of the unpublished DTI report. In the final months of his life, Rowland pursued Fayed relentlessly over allegations that his safe deposit box, held of course at Harrods, had been plundered.

As a result of Rowland's evidence, Fayed was arrested in March this year after voluntarily presenting himself at a central London police station. But less than a week before Rowland's death, police ended the threat of prosecution against Fayed and six associates. Fayed described the decision as a "triumph for truth", blaming the incident on Rowland's vendetta. When it came to anything with which the Fayed were

for the most expensive investigating accountants, private investigators and lawyers he could find and turn their venom upon those who had crossed him.

In 1989, after the Australian tycoon, Alan Bond, bought one-fifth of Lornho's shares, Rowland made Bond and his business activities the issue in a manoeuvre so successful that the Bond empire collapsed and its founder ended in jail. Similarly, his choice of an obscure German property dealer, Dieter Bock, as his successor at Lornho ended badly, after early displays of affection, with Bock booting Rowland off the Lornho board after 34 years. The relationship between Fayed and Rowland began sweetly more than 20 years ago. In a relatively routine transaction, Mohamed al Fayed and Associates sold Lornho some 20 per cent of the shares in the construction group, for cash, a tranche of Lornho shares, and a seat on the Rowland-dominated Lornho board. Fayed was welcomed by the board and was followed by his

vengeful mind the Egyptians had double-crossed him and deprived him of the glittering prize he had sought since 1977. Fayed had been allowed to acquire the House of Fraser, including Harrods, while he, Rowland, who had served the British cause so loyally in post-colonial Africa, had been hung out to dry by successive Conservative governments. He was determined to deprive the Fayed of their trophy and in effect the British citizenship and membership of the establishment which they craved. Using every weapon open to him, including his ownership of the Observer, Rowland waged battle against the Fayed.

Two years after the successful Fayed bid, Rowland was

elated when the transaction was referred to Department of Trade inspectors, the same mechanism which had made him an outcast in the business world for more than a decade. When the report was published in 1990, Rowland was cock-a-hoop — the Fayed had been exposed for alleged business buccaneering from Haiti to the House of Fraser purchase. In 1991 they would be declared unfit to run the Harrods Bank. But the feud was not over.

A cavalcade of legal action between the two ensued, culminating in the Food Hall peace settlement. But, as with everything in Rowland's business life, there was no real end to the rancour. Only his demise will provide that.

Africa pays tribute to Rowland gift of friendship

Sarah Hall and Alex Duval Smith in Johannesburg

MOHAMED al Fayed, the multi-millionaire owner of Harrods, broke his silence over the death of tycoon Tiny Rowland last night as he said he felt "no joy" at the demise of his arch-rival. The entrepreneur had earlier refused to comment on the death of the controversial business figure, who died on Friday at the London Clinic after suffering from skin cancer, aged 60.

But last night Mr Fayed offered his condolences to Mr Rowland's wife, Rosie, and his four children, who were at his bedside when he died. "Tiny Rowland and I were business rivals for many years but I take no joy in his death. I am sending my condolences to his wife and family," he said.

Mr Fayed's gesture to his former rival, who was taken ill while on his yacht, Hamsa, in the Mediterranean last week, followed more generous praise by leaders in Africa, where he transformed Lornho from an unprofitable ranching and mining company into a multi-billion pound international conglomerate over 30 years.

The South African president, Nelson Mandela, who gave Mr Rowland the country's highest award, the Order of Good Hope, for his contribution to peace and prosperity, said he was "a tremendous friend to the whole country".

"He made an enormous contribution, not only to South Africa but to the whole of Africa. We will remember him as a longstanding friend in the struggle against apartheid," he added.

Kenneth Kaunda, former president of Zambia and another long-time friend, described his death as a great loss. "He was a man full of compassion. He had love for fellow human beings. We worked together to empower Africans economically since the '70s," he said.

In Britain, former prime minister Sir Edward Heath, who once described his busi-

ness practices as "the unpleasant and unacceptable face of capitalism", refused to comment on his death.

But Donald Treford, the editor of the Observer during Mr Rowland's proprietorship, who opposed his acquisition of the paper, described him as "one of the most fascinating, beguiling people I have ever come across".

"He was quite literally, larger than life, both in his physical size — he had enormous personal charm and good looks — and, of course, he had a great vision for Africa and great commercial expertise in taking it up," he told BBC Radio 4's Broadcasting House programme.

But the former editor, who clashed with his proprietor in 1984 after he wrote an article about atrocities in Matabeleland which embarrassed his boss's relationship with President Mugabe of Zimbabwe, added that he was a "flawed human being" whose "defects in his personality, in his later years, distracted him from pursuing his business career".

Such defects ensured he was "virtually kicked out" of Lornho, and pursued Harrods, a "prize that was almost beyond his grasp".

"His vision of Africa and its commercial possibilities was a vision worthy of Cecil Rhodes... but he failed to consolidate that," Mr Treford said.

Sir Edward du Cann, the former chairman of Lornho, and former head of the Commons 1922 backbench committee, described his former boss as "the man whom I greatly respected, the man whose judgment I trusted, the man whom I loved".

Speaking on Radio 4's "The World This Weekend", he added: "There will be a big sadness all over Africa and in Europe... and in England to many people whom he led, and to whom he gave hope for the future".

Nicholas Morrell, the vice-president of Lornho, said: "We've been fighting Rowland for over five years now, but de mortuis nil nisi bonum — of the dead speak nothing but good."

Obituary, page 10

The descent of the relationship from affection to hatred had all the trimmings of a love affair which went badly wrong

associated, Rowland was fearless in expressing his views. While his yacht was moored off Cannes last summer, as the romance between Dodi al Fayed and Diana, Princess of Wales, was in full swing, he could not help putting his own sour interpretation on a story which had captured the public imagination. The couple, Rowland told Nigel Dempster of the Daily Mail, were well suited: both were "as thick as planks".

The descent of the relationship between Fayed and Rowland from affection to hatred has all the trimmings of a love affair which went badly wrong. This was often true of Rowland's business relationships. When events turned against him he would reach

brother Ali. The deal was seen as opening up important doors for Lornho and its trading interests in the Gulf region, but did not quite work out as expected. The Fayed left the Lornho board and a period of quiet ensued. While the Fayed were in temporary retreat, Lornho was stalking the House of Fraser, the department store group with Harrods as its flagship, which was run by the ineffectual Sir Hugh Fraser, scion of the founding family. Lornho's first 10 per cent stake was acquired in February 1977 and by July of the next year he had built it to 29.9 per cent of the company, the highest level allowed before a company is required to make a full takeover offer. In 1981

directors being paid through a tax loophole. "You can hate the deed but not the man," — his wife, and mother of his four children, Rosie. "Like a great Dane playing with a baby," — former editor of The Observer Donald Treford on the former proprietor's relationship with the newspaper. "There are few days that go by when Mr Rowland is in Lornho's head office which do not witness extreme displays of rage which, on many occasions, have caused me seriously to call in question the state of his mental health." — William Wilkinson, one of seven Lornho directors taken to court by Rowland when they attempted to sack him from Lornho, May 8, 1973.

In his own words — and what they said about him

Tiny on himself and others:

"I cleaned the pants off Ogilvy. I had him eating out of my hand." — on his friend Sir Angus Ogilvy, Princess Alexandra's husband, after the deal which brought him into Lornho in 1961.

"Frankly he hasn't a clue." — in 1993 on businessman Dieter Bock, the man he once championed as heir to Lornho, and who eventually took over.

"This is the end of a conflict and the start of a new business relationship." — at his and Mohamed al Fayed's 1993 Harrods photo-call to publicly bury the hatchet.

"All I want is to get him in the witness box." — on Fayed, after issuing writs against him in December 1997, claiming Fayed of-



Tiny Rowland in 1960, the year before his Lornho deal

fered him a £10 million bribe and tried to blackmail him.

"I'd like, at my age, to have a bit of fun." — in 1995, expressing his desire to buy back the Observer.

"You can never have enough enemies." — to journalist Michael Gillard.

Others on Tiny:

"It is the unpleasant and unacceptable face of capitalism, but one should not suggest that the whole of British industry consists of practices of this kind." — May 15 1973, Edward Heath, after revelations of Lornho

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Soaring sky-rage leads to call for drinks ban

Amelia Gentleman

AIRLINES are being urged to stop serving free alcohol after a dramatic increase in "sky rage" where drunken and violent passengers jeopardise the safety of all on board.

The pressure group Alcohol Concern is lobbying the Civil Aviation Authority for a complete ban on complimentary drinks to combat the growing alcohol-related problems on flights to and from Britain. Over the past five years the number of disruptive passengers removed from aircraft has increased fourfold. Crew members have been assaulted, cabins damaged and passengers threatened.

More than half of those arrested for serious disturbances on board aircraft last year were charged as being drunk and one in 10 had to be restrained with handcuffs.

Roy Humphreys, of the UK Flight Safety Committee, said: "I hope it's not going to take a crash before the authorities start taking this problem seriously."

The situation, according to Bill Lucas, of the pilot's union BALPA, is probably more serious than official figures indicate. "In the past, airlines have often tried to keep [this] quiet. There have even been cases where passengers have been restrained by staff, then offered upgrades and free airfares because of the inconvenience they have suffered."

Mary-Ann McKibben, Alcohol Concern's assistant director, said: "If we are to avoid

the increasing number of cases where passenger safety is put at risk, airlines should stop serving free drinks and warn passengers that they face severe penalties if they get drunk on a flight." She said there should also be improved training for cabin crews to help them spot when passengers were drunk.

American airline pilots recently suggested that passengers should be limited to just one drink an hour during a flight.

Earlier this year, the CAA launched a campaign to highlight the tough penalties faced by drunk and abusive air passengers. Millions of travellers received a leaflet with their air tickets warning that such behaviour could lead to a £5,000 fine or a two-year prison sentence.

But a CAA spokesman said yesterday that they would not support calls for a total ban on alcohol. "It is already an offence to be drunk on board an aircraft. We will continue to remind passengers of that, but ultimately it is a matter for individual airlines."

British Airways has recently issued new guidelines to staff, empowering them to turn away passengers intoxicated at the airport, and to refuse alcohol to people who appear drunk on board. But it declines to back a total ban. A spokesman said: "Last year we flew 41 million people. Out of 266 cases of disruptive passengers, only 37 incidents were put down primarily to alcohol. We don't want to spoil the enjoyment of millions of passengers for the sake of a tiny minority."



Half the passengers arrested last year on aircraft were classed as drunk, probably encouraged by the free drinks

High spirits

□ In May a drunken Nottingham businessman was handcuffed and strapped to the seat by his ankles at 35,000ft after threatening to kill a British Airways pilot, assaulting a stewardess and smashing a seat. He was fined £5,700 in the US.

□ Last October a woman was jailed for two years for attacking a pursuer and a policeman on a flight from Montreal to Heathrow after drinking to overcome her fear of flying.

□ In May last year a pilot was forced to abandon take-off from Manchester Airport, delaying 200 passengers, because three men were uncontrollably drunk. The three were jailed for six months each and forced to pay £450 costs each.

□ Later that month a drunken woman held up 300 passengers on a Malaga bound flight from Gatwick by claiming that there was a bomb on board. She was jailed for six weeks.

□ Last June two drunken British holiday makers were ejected from a plane at gunpoint minutes before take-off from the Dominican Republic. The women had sworn at staff and refused to sit down.

□ Weeks later two stewards were head-butted trying to pacify a drunken passenger on a flight from New York.

Moral Maze of trying to fill jail position

THERE should have been a flood of applications. A salary of \$54,000-plus, a top-of-the-range company car, a generous relocation package, and a rare chance to skip a few rungs on the career ladder.

This responsible post carries with it a \$50 million annual budget and a staff of 1,280 to boot.

Yet for the past six months, Alan Shannon, chief executive of the Maze prison, in Co Down, home to 500 republican and loyalist terrorists, has been in vain through his in-tray each morning in his spacious office at Dundonald House, east Belfast. Still nothing.

Nobody, it seems, is too keen to become the new governor of the Maze prison, in Co Down, home to 500 republican and loyalist terrorists.

Applications were meant to close on March 6. There have been two formal applications, but neither was judged to have the necessary experience. So the quest to replace Martin Mogg goes on. He remains in situ.

Mr Shannon, chief executive of the Northern Ireland Prison Service, is a former prison officer, a head of security and policy in England and Wales, suggested he should stand aside.

Mr Mogg was director of operations in the Northern Ireland Prison Service in 1983. He was never meant to be Maze governor. He took over at the jail last October, originally only for six months, when the previous governor took early retirement. In the absence of a successor, he has had to stay on. He has been at the centre of media scrutiny. He considered suing over suggestions he had been playing on a bouncy castle at the Christmas party just before Averill's escape.

It was one of a series of lurid stories, which he says are

largely unfounded. One was headlined: "The cell doors are never locked and see their women prisoners as they want and no one's even sure of the head count... welcome to the Maze, Europe's most secure prison."

Mr Shannon says the nature of the job has changed in the wake of the Good Friday Agreement, and the deal which will see all paramilitary prisoners released within two years. So too has the nature of the contract, down from three to possibly just two years.

He says: "It was previously a case of tightening security and implementing changes. Now it is one of managing a volatile prison population suffering from gate fever, and staff morale which is hit by the threat of redundancies."

The search goes on, and another is about to begin. Mr Shannon, under fire himself over the last eight months, is soon to become principal establishment and finance officer in Northern Ireland. Any takers for his job?

● The leader of the Orange Order yesterday raised the prospect of a face-to-face talks group opposed to their parades.

Robert Sauters will call on the ruling Grand Lodge of Ireland to overturn a ban on meeting the groups, which has always maintained a front for Sinn Féin, when it reviews events surrounding the Drumcree stand-off.

Bobbies put on bicycle beat

Helen Carter

POLICE power is being used by police officers in Strathclyde after a study found bicycles were faster than cars in congested cities and towns.

More than 100 police officers will be drafted into the mountain bike squads after a trial found delays in reaching crime scenes within Home Office target times in patrol areas were exacerbated by heavy traffic.

Strathclyde is the first police force in Britain to replace rapid response cars with bikes, which can reach inaccessible areas such as canal towpaths, parks and alleyways.

John Orr, Chief Constable of Strathclyde Police, said:

"We decided to undergo a trial of bikes in some areas and we found that they were a lot faster than high speed response vehicles."

"Congestion often causes officers' delays and it is obviously important to be on the scene of a crime as quickly as possible."

"This is the ideal way to bridge the gap between foot and mobile patrols. They also provide fast access to patrol areas which are more difficult to reach such as parks, canal towpaths, residential areas and busy city streets."

The traditional police uniform will be replaced by Lycra trousers, a yellow fluorescent jacket and cycling helmets. All officers have received training. After the success of the

trial, involving 15 mountain bikes, an extra 61 bikes have been delivered along with 105 uniforms.

Mr Orr said the introduction of bicycles was an environmentally friendly alternative to cars which would help keep police officers fit.

"We have always used bicycles in a limited way as part of community policing, but this is the first time we have taken a strategic approach to respond to crime incidents," he said.

"Strathclyde Police is committing itself to being energy efficient and environmentally friendly."

In America, where the idea originated, there are so many cycling officers they have formed their own union, campaign for more bikes and better equipment.

Church leader brands Diana cartoon 'tacky'

Vikram Dodd

A LEADING member of the Church of England has branded as "tacky" a cartoon film about the life of Diana, Princess of Wales, which Channel 5 Television yesterday said it was thinking of broadcasting.

The 30-minute animation for children depicts Diana's battles with eating disorders and blames Prince Charles for her misery with royal life. It excludes any mention of the

Paris car crash in which she died, and ends with her skipping with children in heaven. The project has already come under fire from George Austin, Archbishop of York, who said: "Cartoons are by their nature tacky. It is so kind to those boys [Prince William and Prince Harry]."

In the latest script, Charles invites Diana to compare the architecture of Buckingham Palace with that of the Acropolis in Athens. A baffled Diana responds: "It is only a quick Tube ride from the shops."

Channel 5 said it had been approached by the programme's makers to buy the cartoon, which has also been pitched to ITV. Channel 5 executives have seen storylines and a script which they think is "delightful".

Sally Osman, spokeswoman for Channel 5, said: "We are quite interested because it is a very nice treatment. Our programming department says it is very good. It will be a high-quality production and we would have no qualms showing it, but it depends on

when the final product is like what it is delivered."

"It's not tacky, it's a delightful look at her life. Diana played a very important part in children's lives — they grieve as much as adults. Animation wins awards for tackling serious subjects."

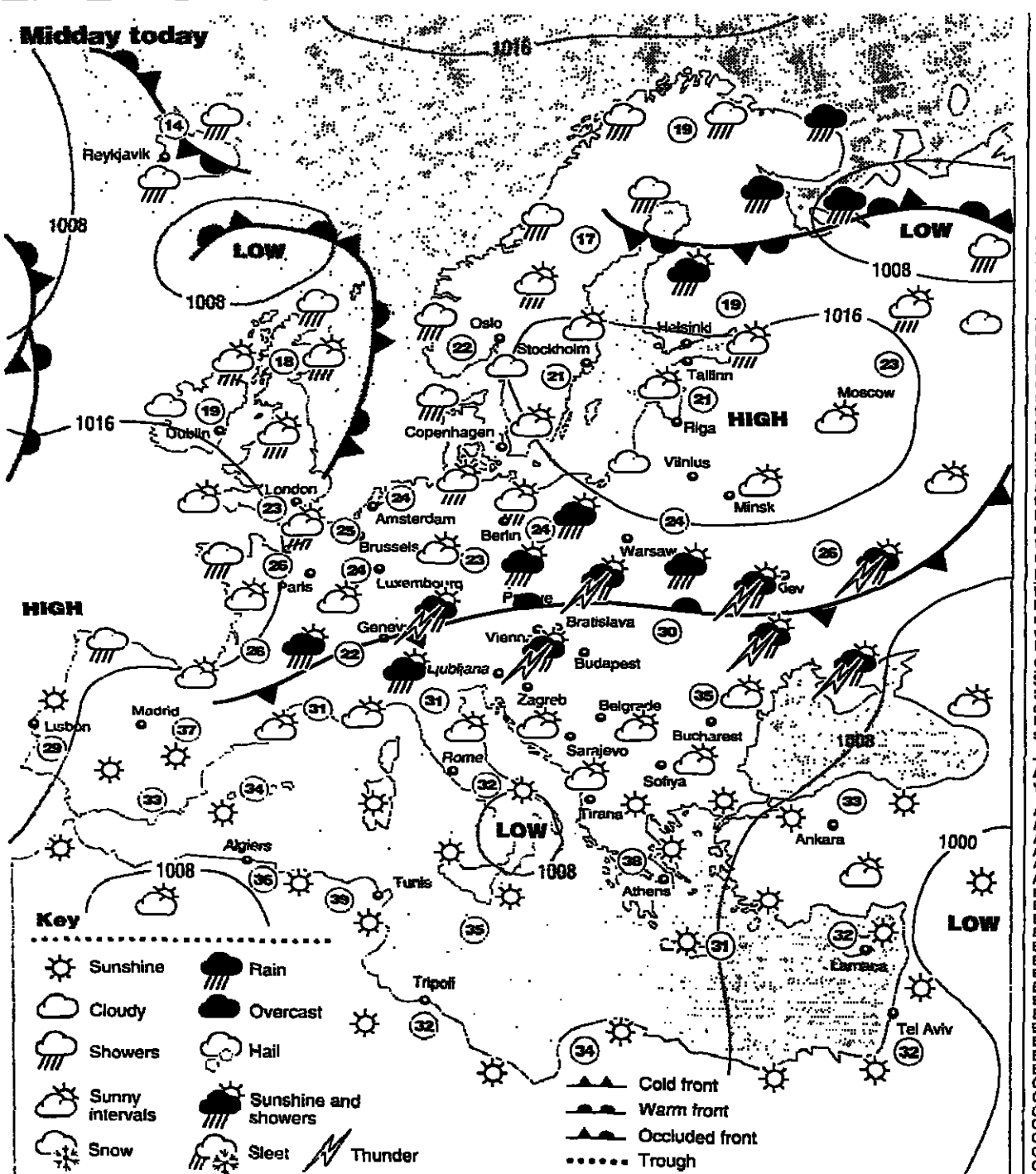
The cartoon will cost £300,000 and is being made by Scottish Television and Siriol Productions, the Cardiff-based company behind the SuperTed cartoon. Die Entertainment, a subsidiary of Disney, is also negotiating with STV to secure

the rights for the lucrative US market.

The animation is based on The Happy Princess, a children's book by Nicholas Allen, who said: "Some people may think it is in bad taste, many may think it is excellent."

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said: "This is probably one of those cartoons you wouldn't want to see." He denied there had been a time, as the cartoon claims, when Charles asked Diana to compare Buckingham Palace with the Acropolis.

The weather in Europe



Television and radio

BBC 1

7.00pm News, 7.30pm News, 8.00pm News, 8.30pm News, 9.00pm News, 9.30pm News, 10.00pm News, 10.30pm News, 11.00pm News, 11.30pm News, 12.00pm News, 12.30pm News, 1.00pm News, 1.30pm News, 2.00pm News, 2.30pm News, 3.00pm News, 3.30pm News, 4.00pm News, 4.30pm News, 5.00pm News, 5.30pm News, 6.00pm News, 6.30pm News, 7.00pm News, 7.30pm News, 8.00pm News, 8.30pm News, 9.00pm News, 9.30pm News, 10.00pm News, 10.30pm News, 11.00pm News, 11.30pm News, 12.00pm News, 12.30pm News, 1.00pm News, 1.30pm News, 2.00pm News, 2.30pm News, 3.00pm News, 3.30pm News, 4.00pm News, 4.30pm News, 5.00pm News, 5.30pm News, 6.00pm News, 6.30pm News, 7.00pm News, 7.30pm News, 8.00pm News, 8.30pm News, 9.00pm News, 9.30pm News, 10.00pm News, 10.30pm News, 11.00pm News, 11.30pm News, 12.00pm News, 12.30pm News, 1.00pm News, 1.30pm News, 2.00pm News, 2.30pm News, 3.00pm News, 3.30pm News, 4.00pm News, 4.30pm News, 5.00pm News, 5.30pm News, 6.00pm News, 6.30pm News, 7.00pm News, 7.30pm News, 8.00pm News, 8.30pm 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Two boys die and girl critically ill with same strain

Outbreak fear after meningitis deaths

Sue Quinn

HEALTH officials in Newcastle are investigating a possible meningitis outbreak after two young boys died and a young girl became critically ill with the disease.

In the latest case, Matthew Scott, aged five, died while on holiday with his family in France. Scores of children have been vaccinated against the disease at a campsite in northern France where he stayed earlier in the week.

Last night, Mike Lavender, public health consultant for Newcastle and North Tyne-side health authority, confirmed the death of the other young boy and that a girl was in intensive care after getting the disease.

Both children are thought to have caught the same strain of the disease as Matthew — meningococcal meningitis — although the diagnosis had not been confirmed, Dr Lavender said.

All three children came

from the same area in the west of Newcastle, although they went to different schools, and authorities have ruled this out as a possible link.

Close friends and relatives of all the children have already been traced and vaccinated. Dr Lavender said that a health team was trying to establish if there were links between the cases.

"In cases like this we follow up all the close contacts," said Dr Lavender. "They have been identified and have received treatment. We are trying to see whether there are any links between the cases, but at the moment there is no strong connection. We know already that the schools are not a connection."

Public health officials in France said that 76 children had been vaccinated at Les Ajoux, at Audresselles, near Boulogne-sur-Mer, the camp site where Matthew's family stayed on Tuesday night.

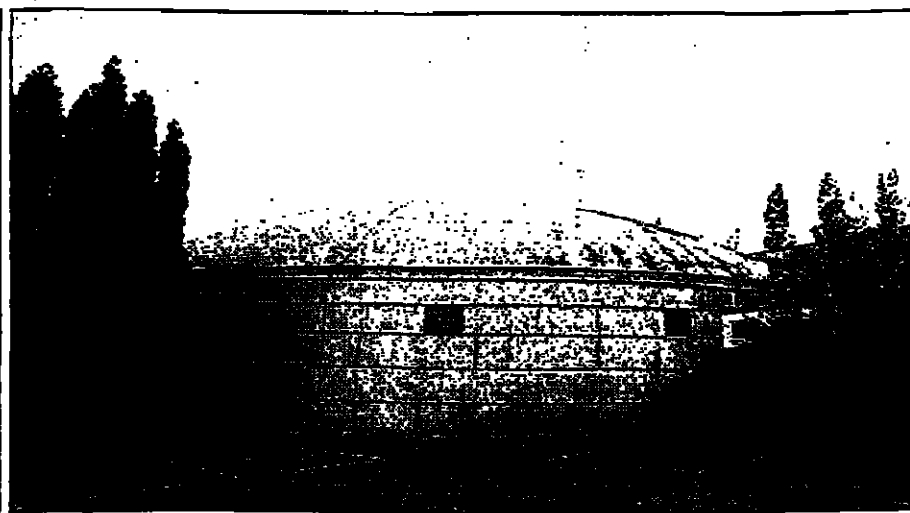
The family travelled on from Audresselles to a camp site on the coast of the Loire-Atlantique region. The camp

site has not been identified, but it is believed that Matthew had been there for several hours before being admitted to hospital. A local authority official said the boy had probably contracted the disease in England.

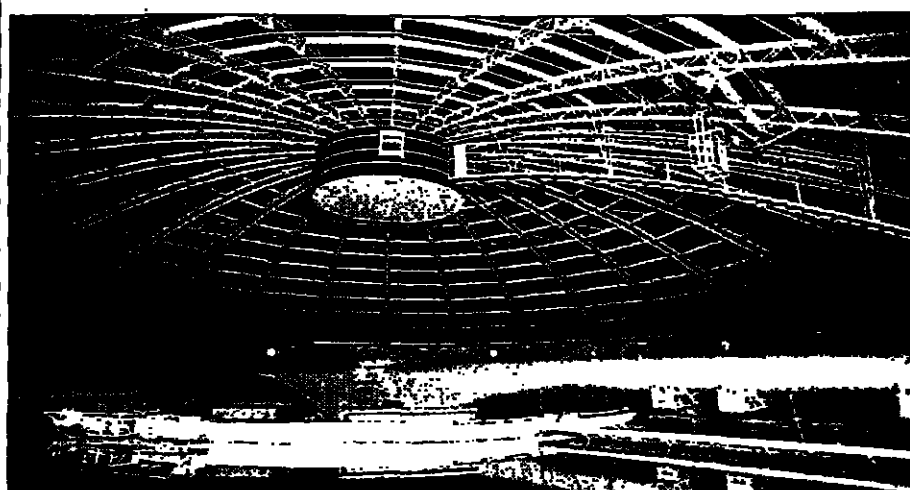
Britain's National Meningitis Trust said it would be seeking information about Matthew's death so that it could advise members of the public who had concerns about the disease. A 24-hour helpline was available on 0845 538 118 for callers.

"For people who have been on holiday in the area, the risk is absolutely minimal, and hopefully this will turn out to be an isolated case of meningitis as most of the cases are," said Anne-Marie Delroa, spokeswoman for the National Meningitis Trust.

But she added: "People should be aware of the signs and symptoms at all times." These include fever, severe headache, neck stiffness, dislike of bright lights, drowsiness, confusion, vomiting, and joint or muscle pains.



Cold war survivor... Rushey Park's secret dome, which may be demolished for housing, stills holds its huge tank (below) built to test nautical equipment



Eerie dome awaits fate

WEST London residents are fighting to save a strange, sinister building from demolition for luxury housing — the vast, domed Annular Tank built in secrecy in Rushey Park, in the 1950s, to test torpedo firing, writes *Mae Kennedy*.

The building is recorded by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, and by English Heritage, in a study of cold war structures, but is not listed. Residents are strongly opposed to private development in the park, near Hampton Court, Middlesex, and want the Grade-II listed Georgian mansion there — plus its mews and the 120 ft diameter tank — to stay publicly-owned for education and as a museum.

The Crown Estate, which owns the land, wants to lease the site for 125 years to a property developer for private housing.

The tank, hidden by military buildings, behind a high, wire fence, was unknown to local people until the Admiralty pulled out, leaving it still full of eerie, blue water reflecting a dome larger than that of St Paul's Cathedral (diameter, 112 ft) and all the machinery in place, including a rotating arm 60 ft long.

Wayne Croft, an archaeologist who recorded the building for the Royal Commission, said: "It is amazing. But I still have only the haziest idea how it worked. All the information on it is still classified."

The tank was for testing the movement of ships and torpedoes, using models attached to a rotating arm kept level by being laid on mercury. It was built in 1954, and, reportedly, there is only one other like it.

Jenny McEvoy, a resident, said: "Children are learning all about the cold war, and here is this extraordinary thing, it would be crazy to demolish it."

Since a public meeting in June, Crown Estate has put its development plans on hold, and made no move to evict the E-team, the environmental activists who, opposed to private development on parkland, have been occupying the site.

News in brief

Army cadet dies in coach accident

AN INVESTIGATION was under way last night after a teenage army cadet was killed when he stuck his head out of a coach skylight as it went under a bridge. Stephen Adair, aged 18, of Stamford Bridge, East Yorkshire, died in Hoogbeem, Holland, on Saturday as he returned with a party of 40 cadets from a visit to the Green Howards headquarters in Osnabrück, Germany. The inquiry will be handled by Dutch police with the co-operation of the army, which expressed its regret at the tragedy yesterday. John Harrison, rector of Stamford Bridge, said he had visited Stephen's family. "Obviously, they're very shocked, as is everybody round here. All our sympathy goes out to Stephen's family."

Plea for jailed addicts

DRUG-addicted prisoners are not getting the help they need to stop them going back to hard drugs after their release, says a report published today. The report from the all-party parliamentary drug misuse group says levels of care for drug abusers were "appalling" both inside jail and on release, while little or no effort was being made to tackle categories of prisoner most likely to be in jail on drug offences. It warned that the problem was no less severe in young offenders and women's prisons. Some inmates were able to evade discovery because they knew tests were never carried out at weekends while in other cases it appeared that inmates were transferring to voluntary "drug-free" wings because there was less interference, making it easier to take drugs.

Police search for drug child

POLICE were looking yesterday for a couple who took their two-year-old son away from a hospital where he was being treated for swallowing an ecstasy tablet. The boy was taken to Macclesfield District General hospital in Cheshire at 9.30am on Saturday by his parents, who told doctors he had swallowed the drug accidentally. In the absence of clinical information about the effects of ecstasy on a child so young, he was kept in for observation, but in the evening the couple reappeared and took him away against advice from medical staff.

"As they did so we informed police and I understand they are still looking for them," said Mike O'Boyle, the hospital's director of nursing. "We would have preferred to have kept him in overnight." A spokesman for Cheshire police refused to comment.

Fears for hunger striker

FEARS were growing last night for the health of Sally Becker, the charity worker who has refused food and drink for four days after being imprisoned in Kosovo.

Ms Becker, aged 37, insisted when she was visited again at the Serb-run prison by a British diplomat that she would not accept medical treatment or a fluid drip. With dehydration setting in, she risks becoming seriously ill through dehydration.

She was visited last week by David Slinn, First Secretary at the British Embassy in Belgrade, who found her "fit and alert", but doctors have warned that she faces circulatory collapse if she continues to refuse fluids. Ms Becker, from Hove, East Sussex, was arrested by the Yugoslav Federal Army last Thursday. She is serving a 30-day sentence for allegedly trying to smuggle a refugee family away from the fighting in Kosovo and into neighbouring Albania.

Plutonium leak prosecution

THE Government's atomic weapons factory at Aldermaston is being prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive for a radioactive plutonium leak which contaminated two workers. The HSE said the allegations refer to alleged procedural failures in safety systems which caused an incident on December 15 last year, when the installation, near Newbury, Berkshire, experienced a leak inside one of the laboratories used to manufacture nuclear warheads.

The prosecution could lead to the holding company, AWE plc, and the managing contractors, Hunting-Brace, being fined a maximum £20,000 if found guilty of a lapse in safety when dealing with nuclear material, when they appear at Reading magistrates court next month, says the HSE. Grahame Hammond, director of communications at AWE plc said the radiation leaked was a "fraction of the legal limit".

Footballer's son 'stable'

THE baby son of former Rangers star Ally McCoist remained in a stable condition in intensive care yesterday after undergoing heart surgery.

Six-week-old Mitchell, born with a hole in his heart, was taken to Yorkhill Children's hospital in Glasgow after becoming ill at the family's home in Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire. On Thursday surgeons operated to reduce the blood flow to his lungs but he still needs an operation to repair the heart defect.

Girl killed by hotel statue

Heleen Garter

AFIVE-YEAR-OLD girl was killed at a Spanish hotel when a statue weighing half a tonne fell on top of her on the last day of her family's holiday.

Laura Roberts from Featherstone, West Yorkshire, died on Thursday night at the Puente Real Hotel in Torremolinos. She had been waving goodbye to her grandmother in the hotel's play area when the statue of a goddess toppled over and struck her on the head. I think she was killed straight away.

It is understood that the statue had only been moved to the children's play area a week ago. Yesterday Laura's parents Darren and Diane, her 18-month-old brother Lawson and her grandmother Dawn Hollis were waiting in Spain for a certificate to be signed so her body can be flown back to England. The family is expected to fly home later today.

Mr Roberts' friend Steve Cranswick, whose daughter was close to Laura, said: "How

do you tell a five-year-old her best friend isn't coming home? It is a terrible tragedy, everyone is distraught."

"The statue should have been properly secured. This is a tragedy which should never have happened. Darren says Laura turned round to wave to her gran and the statue toppled over and struck her on the head. I think she was killed straight away."

Heleen Garter says that ever since the accident there have been workmen running around all over the place getting things right before they are inspected. The family just want to come home, but they have been forced to stay there for a certificate to be signed and they won't come back without Laura's body.

Laura's grandmother Glencie Roberts described her as a lovely little girl who would talk to anyone. She said: "She would come here every day after school and run around with her friends. We just want Darren and Diane back so we can take care of them."



Laura Roberts... died on last day of Spanish holiday

Her husband Raymond said the family was devastated and the news hadn't yet sunk in.

A spokesman for the Puente Real hotel said: "There is an investigation, but it was an accident."

Laura's funeral will take place this week.

Appeal right for barred relatives

Aileen Travis
Home Affairs Editor

THOUSANDS of overseas relatives who are refused entry to Britain for family visits, including weddings and funerals, are to get back a streamlined right of appeal, the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, will confirm today.

The measure will be particularly welcomed in the black and Asian communities, whose members have been left feeling like second-class citizens when their relatives have been refused visitors' visas for family occasions.

Restoration of this right of appeal, scrapped four years ago, is one result of a year-long review, published today, to end the "shambles" of the immigration and asylum system. It has long been a manifesto commitment for Labour, which believes that charging appeal fees will meet the cost involved.

Although talk of amnesty is being strongly resisted, Mr Straw is expected to announce that 10,000 asylum seekers who have been waiting more than five years to learn the outcome of their applications will be allowed to stay. It will not, however, apply to anyone who has had his or her case

rejected and faces deportation. A backlog of 76,000 cases has overwhelmed the Immigration and Nationality Department. The 10,000 all had their applications put to one side by the Conservative government in an attempt to get on top of the backlog.

Mr Straw is also expected to announce the reintroduction of state assistance for some asylum seekers while they wait to learn their fate. This is likely to be an allowance administered by the Home Office and not the Department of Social Security, and to be tied to regular reporting conditions so that they do not disappear from official view.

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Weston (above) believed federal agents were 'prowling' around his wooden shack (right), one of 30 at Rimini, a declining mining town in the Montana hills. The town's folks' battles against the outside world may have contributed to the obsessions that led Weston to go on an armed rampage in the Capitol (far right) and kill two policemen



Crazed fantasies that sent killer on mission from Montana shack to democracy's heart

Russell Weston was dismissed by presidential secret agents as a minor threat, but his mental instability was being fed by the rhetoric of the militias. **Ed Vulliamy** in Washington reports

HE WAS a friend of John F. Kennedy until JFK stole his girlfriend, Marilyn Monroe. And despite the falling-out he remained a "close confidant" of the family.

He had also been a friend of Bill Clinton, but — he told Jerry Swihart, an employee at the mental hospital in Warm Springs, Montana — the president had betrayed him. He had so much "dirt" on Mr Clinton that a mere word, loosely spoken, would cost him his life.

Russell "Rusty" Weston was an enemy of the United States government, just as the government was his foe. It eavesdropped on him, using satellite television dishes. Federal agents "prowled" around his wooden shack at Rimini, a remote cluster of similar cabins on an eight-mile gravel road that cuts through Ten Mile Creek in the Red Mountains of Montana. The agents even laid landmines around his home.

This was the fantasy life of the man charged with the murder of the first two police officers to be killed on duty in the history of the US Capitol.

He was in a serious condition in Washington General Hospital yesterday but said to be improving. If he lives, however, he will almost certainly do so to die a violent death at the hands of the state. The charges against him are federal and demand execution as the price of conviction.

His life began 41 years ago in Mark Twain country, in Valmeyer, Illinois, on a bluff above the Mississippi. His parents were church-going, reclusive and respectable.

As a teenager, he was overweight, almost friendless and "never joined in sports or activities like that", a classmate recalls.

In his twenties, Weston left home in his old red Chevy truck, heading West. Arriving in Montana, he moved into a

cabin owned by his sister, valued at \$1,265 (\$770).

About 30 people still live at Rimini, sunk into a cavernous Montana valley — once a bustling pioneer mining town of 3,000 which exported silver to the UK. Rimini's decline came when the mines went bust and the community lost water rights to the nearby city of Helena. The battle against Helena and the outside world was what bonded the folks remaining.

Weston became known to the local under-sheriff, Tim Campbell, whom he warned: "You'd better watch your back." Despite this, his

strange, eccentric behaviour appeared harmless.

He had pursued a legal suit against his elderly landlady, whom he accused of crippling him with her cane. In 1991 he was arrested for selling drugs, but the case was dismissed.

Two years later he was back in Illinois for what appears to be a formative experience. The residents of Valmeyer, a town buried under 20ft of water when the Mississippi burst its banks, were relocated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Fema) to a trailer park that they derisively named "Femaville".

After the flood, the Weston family was among the few which, defying government advice, rebuilt their homes on vulnerable low ground. Rusty could be seen helping up the leaders in a fireman's helmet.

Later, back in Montana, he twisted his mental instability

into fear and passionate hatred of the government and President Clinton, adapting what has become fairly standard thinking in the Montana wilds to suit his obsessions.

Convinced that government agents were using satellite television dishes to monitor him, he would shriek at the dishes "Here and Here I am!"

In early 1996 he began writing letters about the supposed laying of landmines on his property by federal agents. His pledges to strike back at the government were made with such violence and virulence that presidential secret service agents questioned him. In May he was classified as a "minor threat", albeit one with a "specific" intent.

Montana is home to a plethora of paramilitary militias — and loners hovering in their ambit — convinced the government is preparing to impose a tyranny against which

free citizens must arm and resist.

In militia lore, the agent of the "global government conspiracy" to impose dictatorship is Fema — the agency the Westons had come to hate after the flood.

Such rhetoric would have been available to Weston in any bar or hardware store around Helena. And it would have fuelled his paranoid schizophrenia, which was becoming more evident and for which he was involuntarily committed by a district court to Warm Springs Hospital on October 11, 1996.

"He has something against President Clinton personally, and the government," said Mr Swihart at the mental hospital. "He was possessed by it."

Weston was kept for 32 days and treated with drugs which altered his brain chemistry. On December 2 he was allowed home on medication.

Neighbours say when he took his medicine he was "fine". But if he forgot, or did not feel like it, his rantings about the government became so wayward as to warrant a call to the police.

Strangely, Weston had no gun. But his father had one — a Smith & Wesson .38. Last week when Weston was back in Valmeyer he used it to kill 16 of his father's cats.

During an interview with the Miami Herald newspaper on Friday, Eugene Weston went to check on the gun. "It's not there," he said. Just a few hours beforehand, the gun had been in his son's hand as he entered the Document Door of the Capitol, storming through the metal detector.

As he did so, a police officer, Jacob "J" Chestnut, was writing down directions for a father and son who had just completed their tour of the Capitol. Suddenly, a gun

aimed at the back of Officer Chestnut's head was fired; the father and son were soaked in the officer's blood as he fell to the floor.

Another officer opened fire and Weston returned three shots, as tourists and staff at the gift shop fled. One woman ran screaming through a door to Weston's left, leading to the offices of Congressman Tom DeLay of Texas, the Republican whip. Weston followed, firing.

It was then that the lone woodsman from Montana met his nemesis: John Gibson, father of five, Vietnam veteran and police officer assigned to protect the majority whip and his staff.

The woman was screaming "Help! Help!" as Officer Gibson spun round towards the door and Mr DeLay and his staff scrambled for cover. The policeman flung the woman to the ground, putting himself directly in the line of fire.

As Officer Gibson was hit in the chest, he grabbed his gun and shot Weston in the legs. The officer fell next to the photocopying machine and died.

Mr DeLay is seen as something of a tough-tongued Texan. Even his own side of the House is scared of him — that is why he is chief whip.

But on Saturday afternoon, on the Capitol steps, he wept like a schoolboy. "John Gibson was simply the finest man I ever met," he said. "Like a member of my family."

His voice cracked. "He died saving the Capitol and the lives of the public — and mine."

Violence that fails to cow America's old-time warrior

THE US Capitol is an old-time and bruised warrior, even though none of its police guardians had ever been killed before Friday, writes **Ed Vulliamy**.

JANUARY 1935: Richard Lawrence fired two shots at President Andrew Jackson as he attended a funeral rite in the chamber. Jackson was not hit; Lawrence was declared insane.

MAY 1856: Confederate Representative Preston Brooks set upon Yankee

Senator Charles Sumner from Massachusetts with a cane. Sumner was beaten unconscious and unable to resume his duties for three years. Brooks resigned his seat, but was eagerly re-elected in South Carolina.

1895: A reporter from the Louisville Times, Charles Kinsaid, shot Representative William Taulbee in a row over an article he had written. Taulbee died days later.

1915: The Senate

reception room was damaged by a homemade bomb planted by a Harvard professor protesting against arms sales to countries which later became US allies in the first world war.

JULY 1947: Senator John Bricker of Ohio was shot at twice as he entered the Senate subway. Both shots missed. The gunman was a former Capitol policeman who had lost money when an Ohio savings bank was

liquidated 15 years earlier.

MARCH 1954: A band of Puerto Rican nationalists opened fire from the House visitors' gallery, wounding five representatives. The assailants were captured and convicted. After the shooting, more police were hired and, for a time, thought was given to enclosing the galleries in bullet-resistant glass.

MARCH 1971: The revolutionary Weathermen detonated a bomb in the

Senate wing of the Capitol during the pre-dawn hours, in protest against the wars in Vietnam and Cambodia.

The blast demolished a lavatory and damaged six other rooms. The bomber was never found.

In the aftermath, tighter security measures were installed. These included guards at the entrances to the Capitol and Senate and House office buildings and electronic surveillance at strategic points.

NOVEMBER 1983: A bomb exploded in an alcove 30ft from the Senate chamber.

MAY 1988: Members of the "communist politico-military organisation", protesting against the American invasion of Grenada, were indicted. Security at the Capitol building was further tightened, with visitor access limited to six doors and metal detectors installed at all entrances.

Clinton subpoenaed to appear

Mark Tran in New York

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton is preparing himself for an appearance before a federal grand jury after special prosecutor Kenneth Starr subpoenaed him to testify before investigators in the Monica Lewinsky case.

It is the first time a sitting president has been subpoenaed to appear before a federal grand jury and marks a dramatic raising of the stakes in a long-running investigation into whether Mr Clinton carried on an affair with a 25-year-old White House intern and tried to cover it up. He has the option of challenging the subpoena on constitutional grounds and delaying proceedings for months.

The White House believes that only the House of Representatives has the power to enforce a subpoena against the president and the matter would probably have to be resolved by the Supreme Court.

But the consensus on yesterday's chat shows was that Mr Clinton would damage himself severely should he refuse to comply with the subpoena. "It would be political suicide," said John Dean, the White House counsel under President Richard Nixon.

The president's lawyers and Mr Starr's office are expected to negotiate this week on a format that would allow Mr Clinton to preserve some dignity in the proceedings. Presidential advisers say that Mr Clinton is likely to provide testimony in some form but that he hoped to avoid a grand jury appearance, where

witnesses cannot be accompanied by their lawyers. He would prefer to make a deposition, most likely in a videotape, or he could reply to written questions.

The subpoena capped a busy week for Mr Starr as secret service agents, the president's secretary and a senior Clinton adviser, Harold Ickes, all testified, and signals that he is coming to an end in his six-month inquiry. When news of the alleged affair first broke, Mr Clinton's White House days seemed numbered, but he was buoyed by public opinion polls showing that most people cared little whether he had sexual relations with Ms Lewinsky.

Mr Starr issued the subpoena after Mr Clinton's failure to respond to requests for him to appear before the

grand jury voluntarily. His lawyers have given several explanations, including Mr Clinton's busy schedule and the White House view that Mr Starr's investigation is unfair and politically motivated.

The last president to receive a grand jury subpoena was Nixon, who was ordered in 1973 by the Watergate special prosecutor, Archibald Cox, to surrender his Oval Office tapes. Nixon refused, but the Supreme Court unanimously ruled that he had to give up the tapes.

Mr Clinton's supporters yesterday urged him to answer Mr Starr's questions and put the episode behind him. Former White House chief of staff Leon Panetta said "if he presents his testimony there is a good chance we can see this wrap up."

NOT content with causing chaos among the American Puerto Rican community last year by calling them a bunch of "fat, squat, ugly, dumpy, dirty, semi-savages", the columnist Taki Theodoracopoulos has turned his pen closer to home.

This time he has attacked Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, saying he would like to "bugger him" for his pronouncement that Bob Dylan is equal to the romantic poet John Keats.

"If you thought comedy was dead, you obviously never heard of Chris Smith," Mr Theodoracopoulos writes in the current edition of *Hamptons*, the weekly glossy pored over by Hampton residents — who include Steven Spielberg, Ralph Lauren and Calvin Klein — and which is normally so fawning it makes Hello! look cynical.

"Smith is a British cabinet minister which for some of you out in the Hamptons may mean that he is a carpenter," Mr



Taki (left) launched a homophobic attack on Chris Smith for saying that Bob Dylan was equal to the poet John Keats



Taki kicks up new storm with anti-gay attack on Chris Smith

Josanna Coles in East Hampton, Long Island

THEODORACPOULOS continued. "He is also openly gay, the first ever among Her Majesty's ministers."

What upsets Mr Theodoracopoulos most, however, is Mr Smith's recent admission that he thinks John Keats is no way superior to the singer Bob Dylan.

The columnist, who so provoked Puerto Ricans last year that New York's Mayor Rudy Giuliani demanded he be sacked from his column in *The Spectator*, said he was so outraged by Mr Smith's comments that "when I read this shit my first reaction was to kidnap and bugger the bugger. But then I thought he might like it. In fact I know he would."

The Hamptons' historian Steven Gaines echoed many residents' feelings when he said that he was appalled by the column.

"Any allegedly straight man who says that, well it's usually part of their fantasy," he said. "Taki is desperate, isn't he? I mean it shows how desperate he is to be writing for *Hamptons* — it's hardly Vanity Fair or the New Yorker, is it?"

Mr Smith's office was not returning calls yesterday.

News in brief

Police fight mob at port

More than 100 people were injured when Philippines police stormed a building in the free port of Subic Bay yesterday to clear out hundreds of supporters of the port's sacked chairman, Richard Gordon.

Hundreds of people seized the building six days ago after he was sacked by his political foe, the country's president, Joseph Estrada. — *Reuters*.

Cyanide curry

Japanese police launched an investigation into suspected mass murder yesterday after dozens of people ate curry and rice contaminated with cyanide at a festival in Wakayama, 250 miles west of Tokyo. Four victims died and 60 were hospitalised. — *Reuters*.

Prison amnesty

Two of 50 political prisoners freed at the weekend are refusing to leave prison until all of Indonesia's political detainees are pardoned, *John Aglionby* in Jakarta writes. They want an amnesty for the remaining 130 or so prisoners of conscience jailed by ousted President Suharto.

Algeria massacres

Armed groups killed at least 20 people overnight in western Algeria, officials said yesterday, in the first massacres since a UN fact-finding mission arrived to investigate a Muslim insurgency. Security forces said 12 people were killed in the village of Khellil, near the Moroccan border. — *Reuters*.

Settlers increase

The construction of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza more than doubled in the past year, according to statistics made public by a peace group, *Julian Borger* in Jerusalem writes. Peace Now said yesterday 730 homes were built for Jewish settlers in the occupied territories.

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News in brief

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Prayers help to ease the pain for tsunami families

Christopher Zinn in Vanimo

TINY Charles Umarari, bandaged and orphaned by Papua New Guinea's tsunami disaster, was cradled in the arms of a New Zealand nurse yesterday during an emotional church service for the survivors.

Under a thatched roof at the Australian army's field hospital, the six-year-old was blessed by the padre as one of the thousands of casualties who have been injured and bereaved after their homes were swept into the Sissano lagoon.

Charmain Mills, a volunteer nurse, said she would like to adopt the child, whose extended family was almost wiped out in the tragedy nine days ago.

"We believe he has one cousin left, that's all," said Ms Mills, who has a child of her own. "I have this thing for Charles and ... I know it will last."

But she said it was more likely that Charles, who has ankle and eye injuries and has not spoken since the catastrophe, will be adopted by a family in Vanimo. She will help pay for his education.

Her reaction is typical of the compassion shown by



Villagers in traditional dress take part in a church service in Vanimo, Papua New Guinea, for victims of the tsunami disaster. PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK RYCKOFF

people around the world since the wave devastated the West Sepik coastline.

Supplies and medicines from countries such as France, the Netherlands, Indonesia, the United States and Japan are pouring in. And at a donors' meeting in the capital, Port Moresby, 50 countries including Britain pledged to send aid.

Yesterday's ecumenical service at the hospital, which carried out 200 operations in 72 hours last week,

was conducted in English and pidgin.

The army padre, Father Glynn Murphy, tried to explain to the survivors how the disaster happened, by saying that the Earth "had to stretch sometimes".

A gift shift in the under-sea tectonic plates triggered the giant wave which killed and swept away a still unknown number of people. Casualties among the children were particularly high.

"Nobody did anything wrong, it's just the way the Earth is," said Fr Murphy.

"So much of what the Earth gives us is good and sometimes we are in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Brother Ben told them in their language how God, known in pidgin English as the "chik pela" or the big fellow, still loved their children despite the suffering, which is referred to locally as the "bugs up".

Around a makeshift altar

furnished with a small cross, Australian paratroop surgeons prayed with their battered and shocked patients for some clear future for the displaced villagers.

Fr Murphy said those in uniform had been affected by the gruesome days and nights when gangrene and infections meant many, including children, had to have their legs amputated.

"You get used to single tragedies in cars and with cancer. But when about

2,000 people are wiped out in about two minutes, some of them rather horrendously, it all hits in its own way," he said.

The aid workers must now stabilise the injured and prepare the locals to look after them while improvements are made to the care centres, two hours' walk inland, where 3,000 villagers are living.

The Sissano lagoon has been declared a prohibited area because it is still full of bodies. It is feared it could take two years before the locals can return.

"The padre said the people needed clothes and dried food, and tools such as machetes and hoes so they could start new gardens to grow food. The intensely proud and religious people, he said, would need help to get back on their feet but then wanted to work out their grief in their own way."

"They will build again on land that's close to the sea. They will keep the lagoon as a burial place for their people," he said. "It will become a secret place and no one will live or flash there. That will be a place for the spirits of their dead."

Cambodians turn out in force for calm ballot

Nick Cumming-Bruce in Phnom Penh

VOTERS in Cambodia yesterday vindicated international support for controversial parliamentary elections by voting in large numbers and mostly peacefully.

How free and fair the ballot has been remains the key issue for some 500 international observers from 23 countries, after a month-long campaign marred by intimidation and overshadowed by the bloody coup a year ago, when Hun Sen toppled his co-prime minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

Voters turned out in force throughout the country early yesterday to participate enthusiastically in the first general election since that organised by a United Nations peace-keeping operation in 1993.

Ten people died in a Khmer Rouge attack in Anlong Veng, the guerrillas' last big jungle base in the remote north. But the incident was not expected to have a bearing on the outcome of the polls.

Elsewhere, a member of the Cambodian poll-monitoring organisation, Comfrel, said: "The biggest problem is crowd control, which is not the problem we expected."

At one polling station in Phnom Penh voters left the building via windows to escape a crush at the front. At another polling station people were swarming across desks to cast their votes.

"They are so happy. In my neighbourhood they weren't scared," the Comfrel director, Kuol Panha, said. "I believe this is a very proud people who wanted to vote."

But an undercurrent of fear prompted most shops in Phnom Penh to remain shut yesterday. Most people were unwilling to reveal how they had voted.

"We're all afraid," Bun Ly, a farmer aged 40, said. "We don't dare to speak out."

He said he had not even discussed the matter with his wife, saying only that "after the election I expect prosperity and development."

Others spoke of a wish for peace, which was as close as most would come to voicing

their opposition to Hun Sen's regime. Several villagers said such developments as there had been had benefited the rich more than the poor.

"If Hun Sen wins the election, in five years Cambodia will be finished," Heng Kim Leng, a food vendor, said.

Such sentiments illustrate the perception during the campaign that Prince Ranariddh and the outspoken government critic Sam Rainsy had mounted a serious challenge for the leadership and might have inflicted a heavy defeat on Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP).

Prince Ranariddh said he was pleased by the turnout and was confident that his party, Funcinpec, would win a fair vote.

"I am very confident by the end of this day 80-90 per cent of the voters will cast their ballots and Funcinpec will win," he said after voting in Kompong Cham.

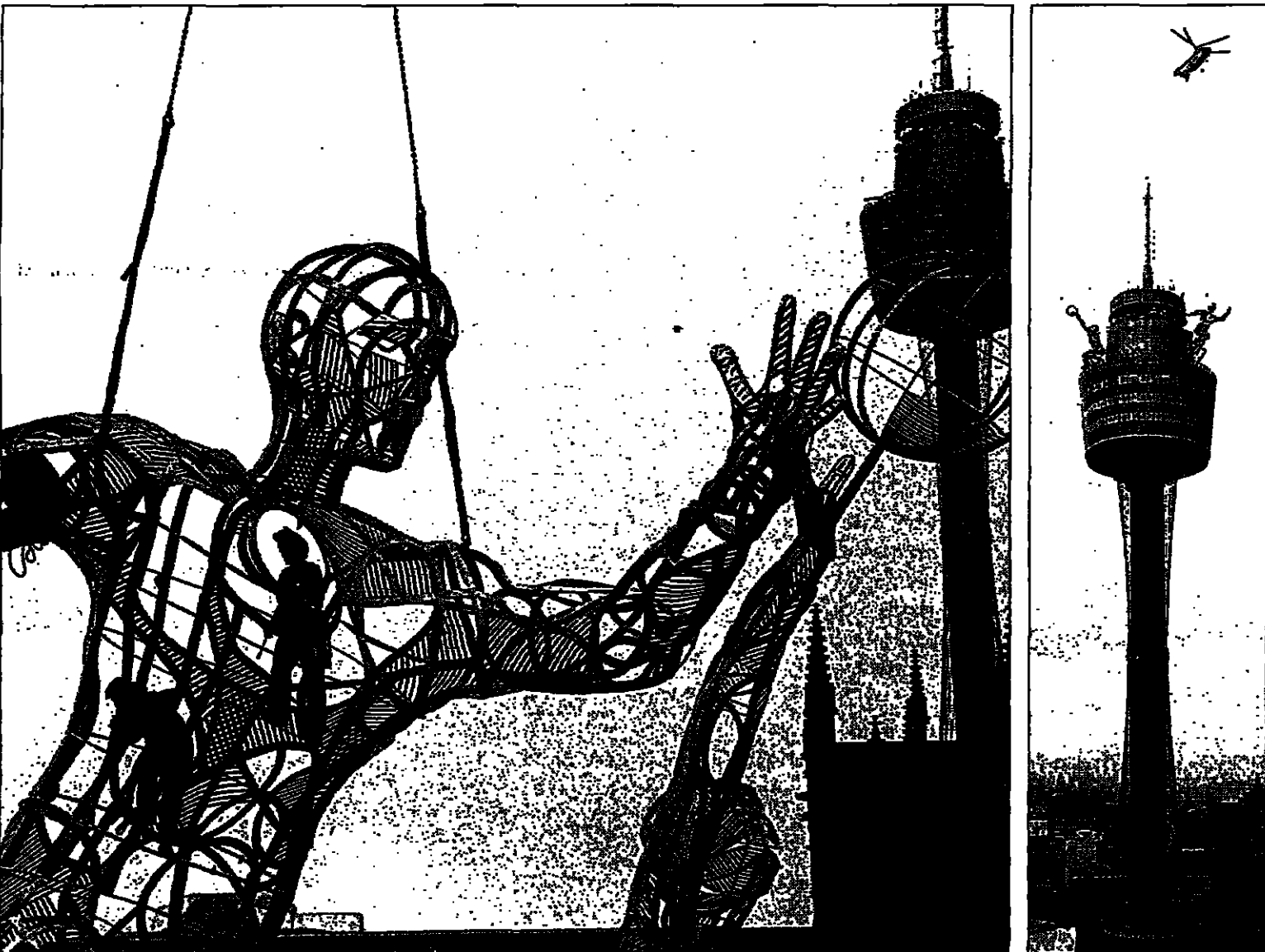
Almost 5.4 million people were eligible to vote for 39 parties fighting for 122 national assembly seats. Election officials said in many areas 70-80 per cent of eligible voters had cast their ballots in the first few hours.

The ballots will be counted today and the credibility of the result will depend on whether people were able to vote freely. After the trouble-free polling, worries about possible vote-tampering have eased. But it remains to be seen whether voters have succumbed to threats and fears, such as that expressed by one market stallholder: "If Hun Sen wins, the foreigners [in business] will leave. If Hun Sen loses there will be war."

A smiling Hun Sen, looking relaxed and confident, did his best to banish such notions when he turned out to cast his ballot at his heavily defended military base on the outskirts of the capital.

"If the CPP loses, we would wait at most five hours and then we will transfer power," he said, adding that he would not seek to disrupt any incoming government.

But some CPP members have threatened to resort to military muscle to hang on to power and — after last year's coup — many believe Hun Sen capable of it.



A 39ft-high steel sculpture is winched by helicopter into place at the top of Sydney's Centropoint Tower (above and right). The sculpture, called A Runner, was designed by Dominique Sutton and is one of three which will sit on the tower until the end of the 2000 Olympic Games in the city. The other two are a gymnast doing a handstand and a wheelchair basketball player. A clock to count down the days to the games will also be placed on the tower, which at 991ft is Sydney's tallest building. PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVE HANCOCK (main) and WILLIAM WEST

African diplomats try to avert new Angola war

Alex Duval Smith Africa Correspondent in Johannesburg

SOUTHERN African diplomats are scrambling to avert a return to civil war in Angola, as reports emerge of arms and troop movements by the government and rebels loyal to the 1994 Angolan peace protocols.

As reports put the death toll at 215, leaders from 14 southern African countries discussed Angola in Namibia yesterday. On Saturday, the South African deputy foreign affairs minister, Aziz Pahad, met envoys from Russia, Portugal and the United States, which oversee the 1994 Angolan peace protocols.

Amid a climate of insecurity, it is unclear how serious is the threat of renewed war between the federal army of Angola and rebels loyal to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola.

The government claims Unita rebels were responsible for last Wednesday's attack, north of the diamond mining town of Cafunzu in Lunda Norte province. But Unita blamed diamond gangs.

United Nations officials were reluctant to cast blame. Cafunzu lies in the heart of Angola's richest diamond-mining region, the Cuango river valley — Unita's traditional heartland. In recent months there has been a spate of attacks on towns, attributed by the government to Unita. But the rebels claim Luanda is using the situation to deflect attention from economic problems.

As a result of the growing insecurity, the UN estimates that up to 150,000 Angolans have fled their homes.

The UN mission in Angola is charged with overseeing the implementation of the November 1994 Lusaka peace accords which ended 20 years of civil war. The accords allow for the rebels to send ministers to join a government of national unity in Luanda. The rebel movement has done so — creating internal divisions

— but has been slow to disband its 70,000 troops and surrender its territory in the east.

After their weekend meetings, regional diplomats yesterday were calling for the speedy appointment of a new UN mediator after the death on June 26 of Alioune Blondin Beye in a plane crash in Ivory Coast. The call was backed by the 14 delegates of the Southern African Development Community, who held a trade meeting in Swakopmund, Namibia, yesterday.

In Luanda, the government spokesman, Joao Lorenzo, said: "Unita's failure to comply with the Lusaka peace accords means we're practically in a state of war. Now is the time for the government's forces to assume their responsibilities, to ensure that no more Angolans die."

While the UN has imposed trade and financial sanctions on Unita to coax it towards compliance with the accords, the Angolan government has taken more aggressive action. Last week, it was reported that the government had moved troops and heavy artillery into position for an offensive in the central highlands.

Struggle for power

1969: Unita (the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) established and becomes the third movement fighting for independence from Portugal.

1975: Independence followed by split between MPLA (the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola), supported by Soviet Union and Cuba, and FNLA (the National Front for the Liberation of Angola) and Unita, supported by United States and South Africa.

September 1992: Presidential elections won by Eduardo Dos Santos, leader of MPLA.

November 20, 1994: Peace accords signed in Lusaka.

February 1995: UN sends peacekeepers to monitor pact.

1996: Unita hands 700 tonnes of arms to UN but Jonas Savimbi, its leader, refuses to take up vice-president's post.

February 1998: UN peacekeepers leave.

Albanians tell of Serb atrocities

Douglas Hamilton in Belgrade and Anne Thompson in Astrakhan

YUGOSLAV army artillery pounded guerrilla targets in central Kosovo yesterday on the third day of a big offensive, while terrified ethnic Albanian families fled from villages in the way of advancing tanks, telling tales of atrocities and mutilation.

The rumble of heavy shelling vibrated through the air as two tractor-drawn carts with some 40 refugees pulled into the village of Bujanec, 12 miles south-west of the provincial capital, Pristina.

More than 300 refugees have gathered in Bujanec since the offensive began, according to a local representative of the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK), the main ethnic Albanian party in the Serbian province.

The offensive against guerrillas of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) was backed by Serbian security police and armed civilians, though the official Yugoslav news agency



Tanjug referred only to actions by Serbian "police" against "bloodthirsty terrorist gangs".

The offensive, the most widespread and co-ordinated Serb operation since April, appeared aimed at clearing rebel fighters from three strategic highways: one westward from Pristina to Pec, another south to the town of Prizren and a third along the Albanian border in western Kosovo.

If successful, it would split the estimated one-third of the

province under rebel control and block routes to their sanctuaries in neighbouring Albanian, from which the insurgents smuggle weapons.

The guerrillas, who control large areas of rural Kosovo, are fighting for independence for the ethnic Albanians who make up 90 per cent of the 1.8 million population, and are seeking an end to years of harsh Serbian rule.

They are resisting international efforts to broker a ceasefire leading to a negotiated settlement that would give Kosovo's people a form of self-determination. But in the past 10 days the military tide has appeared to run against them.

The KLA suffered serious casualties during an attempt to bring in large numbers of fighters from Albania and its attempt to take the town of Orahovac was repelled.

Ismet, aged 36, said he sheltered for five days in his basement in Orahovac. At one point 66 people were sharing the cramped space. All had managed to get out of the town, which was virtually deserted when Serbian police opened it to reporters last

week. Like many of the some 20,000 ethnic Albanians in the district, Ismet headed for the rebel-held village of Malisevo, which is now packed with displaced people dependent on humanitarian aid.

The Serb mayor of Orahovac was quoted by Tanjug yesterday as calling on all residents to return in safety to their homes, and urging businesses to go back to work.

The ethnic Albanian Committee for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms named 40 people killed in the fighting in Orahovac and said that others were still unaccounted for.

It said seven men were summarily executed and their bodies burned, but there was no independent corroboration of the report.

Refugees spoke of Serb forces who had gouged eyes, burned Albanian civilians alive, beat them, shot them, slit their throats, and cut the Serbian cross into their victims' flesh with bloody knives.

On the other side — in a mirror image of fact, secrecy and hyperbole — Serbs speak

of rebel atrocities against their people.

Facts become irrelevant, giving way to what each community believes is true, as stories of barbarity fuel mutual recriminations and drive the Serbs and Albanians further apart.

One man said he saw police stab his neighbour, Ali Spahiu, in the head and carve the Serb symbol on his face. He said the man's wife tried to hide in a cellar but Serbs broke in and opened fire, wounding her with bullets that ricocheted off the walls.

The man said the Serbs burned his house and robbed women of gold jewellery, tucking it as trophies into black head scarves.

"The Serbs cut out the eyes and slit throats," Zumei Cani, aged 60, claimed, though he had only heard about the attack. He said that before journalists arrived, Serbs came in and washed the streets of blood.

Douglas Hamilton is a Reuters correspondent. Anne Thompson reports for the Associated Press.

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Comment

e-mail

Claudia McElroy
@Khorog

WHEN the Soviet authorities built Khorog in 1932 as a buffer against invasion from Afghanistan, settlers were lured with promises of a secure food supply and free welfare services. Women bearing 10 or more children were awarded the status of "mother-hero", with numerous attendant benefits. But, after almost 70 years, the isolated capital of Tajikistan's semi-autonomous Gorno-Badakhshan region is still struggling to recover from the folly of its creation. When the Soviet lifeline broke in 1991, the 20,000 inhabitants of the burgeoning town — with no industry and little arable land — were left to somehow fend for themselves.

The only functioning road that links Khorog to the outside world is from Osh in neighbouring Kyrgyzstan, almost 800 km away. The road's eventual tortuous descent to Khorog reveals a town of drab Soviet-style apartment blocks, completely incongruous in its spectacular alpine setting.

Already at a distance it's not difficult to see whom the people of Khorog believe is the key to their salvation, both spiritually and practically. Embellished in huge white letters on a mountain side above the town is the message "Welcome Our Hizar Imam", a souvenir of a visit to the area by the Aga Khan, spiritual leader of the Ismaili Muslims. As well as providing humanitarian assistance, the Aga Khan's charity is encouraging a shift towards free market capitalism.

The fruits of this labour include Khorog's marketplace, which has been transformed in recent years into a reasonably busy trading centre. While fresh produce may be scarce, vendors do a roaring trade in confectionery and the ubiquitous cans of "Black Death Vodka". Women compete to sell home-baked snacks.

BUT such success stories do little to mask the plight of the majority of Khorog. Unemployment remains extremely high, with increasing numbers of young people turning to the abuse and trade of drugs. Heroin is cheap and readily available. As elsewhere in Tajikistan, the black-windowed cars of the "mafia" — gangs of professional criminals — are becoming common.

It is not surprising then that many of Khorog's older generation are nostalgic about the past. Take 70-year-old Noyoshov Dorobshoev for example, who worked all his life on a communal farm and who now has his own half-hectare of wheat. Tilling by himself under the midday sun, he appears resigned to his fate. "Life was much better before because the state provided everything. Now, even if I work as hard as I can, my harvest might be bad, then my family will have nothing to eat. Only God provides," he said. "But what choice do we have?" he added with a wry smile. "Even God can't turn the clock back."

Reshuffled?



Good start, Tony. But there still be dragons out there needing slaying

Polly Toynbee



SCHOOL'S out. Exams are over, the summer holidays beckon. But term cannot end until the wretched ministers packing up and down in front of the notice board their results — a cruel public humiliation ritual — not a part of normal job descriptions. But whatever happens to individuals, collectively they've had a very good year.

Politics is an extraordinary business. Hundreds of billions of pounds and the future prospects of millions are thrust into the hands of people who have never run anything before in their lives. Never has there been a more inexperienced team than New Labour. Well, Frank Dobson ran Camden Council for a bit — but that's hardly preparation for running the NHS, the biggest employer in Europe. Jack Straw chaired the governors of Pimlico school — but look at his estate now. Yet how sure-footed they have been, what quick learners. The best sign of their competence is how fast they recovered from early mistakes. With single parent benefit cuts they made a bad blunder in beginning the task of benefit reform, but now it's back on track. Gordon Brown started out too frightened of the vanquished Tories, glued to Tory spending plans and Tory prudence, but how soon he found his own, more confident voice. We wait to see what Tony Blair has learned from cronygate.

We judge a Labour government on how far it succeeds in making life better for ordinary people, how it alters the distribution of life's opportunities. We elect it to innovate and reform. To blow a liberal, tolerant breath of decency

across the land and keep the meaner forces of conservatism at bay for as long as possible. On these scores, taking the rough with the smooth, the judgment so far has to be pretty good.

The very fact that we now talk of "social policy" — a phrase almost unheard during the Tory years — reveals the seismic shift. The past few weeks have brought a rapid succession of programmes, plans, projects and schemes pouring out of every department, all designed to fulfil Tony Blair's grand promise: "No forgotten people, no one left out." The ideas are good, the money is there, the plans made flesh and rolled out at remarkable speed. Welfare to work, the new deal for lone parents, Sure Start, youth justice teams, every sort of action zone — the list goes on and on. There's that teen look in so many ministerial eyes. It's not hunger for power or glory, it's something else. They take you aside and pump you full of all the good they mean to do — this school, that play scheme, that offenders group, whatever. Failure barely crosses their consciousness as a possibility. Of course it works, we know it does, we'll prove it.

No government has been so committed to monitoring the results of everything it does, chasing research to discover what works. It's admirable, though brave, because the time may come when that approach may come back to haunt them. Will there be fewer workless households now? Roy Jenkins's commission on proportional representation reports in October. Will Blair seize the chance and take the risk, or back off?

That things can only get better. But is this the high spot, the zenith of high hopes? Nothing has had a chance not to work yet. It's like looking at a thriving child and wondering how he'll look at 50, bald, paunchy, sad? How New Labour look in, say, 2007, at the end of a second term? Could it ever become as forlorn and directionless as the Tory party that crept away from the battlefield last year? How can ministers stop that happening to them?

Only by constant renewal, by keeping an eye on the far horizon and leaving mighty landmarks in their wake. Good social programmes are only half the story. The other half is fundamental institutional reform — or what they call "modernisation". We don't know yet what Blair means by the word, but he talks like a man with a grand plan, his sights on something beyond the day-after-tomorrow's opinion polls.

To mention history books suggests uncharacteristic vainglory, but he is a man who wants to leave monuments to his reign. He wants change. It shouldn't be too difficult, if he has the nerve. There's hardly an important institution that doesn't cry out for modernisation the Blair way.

His nerve will be tested soon, for in the autumn he will have to reform the Lords. Will it be democratic, or leave us with a botched second chamber as shameful as the ancient House of Lords? Now? Roy Jenkins's commission on proportional representation reports in October. Will Blair seize the chance and take the risk, or back off?

There's a danger set-backs in Scotland will have taken the edge off his appetite for constitutional reform. But cowardice over this would leave us with little hope that he is serious about "modernisation" in anything else. So much to be done, so much that needs real determination to make it happen, starting with an open way of selecting judges. Then the Commons needs reform, turning it into a smaller chamber with fewer, more expert MPs, better able to scrutinise legislation, sitting sensible hours. Prime ministerial patronage needs to be curbed — what better example to start with than by divesting himself of his own unaccountable power to grant favours too widely.

But if he wants to be a real game-changer, then he has to strike at the power of media ownership, the snake curled around the root of democracy. As Murdoch reaches out now into radio, his global empire growing by the month, we remain alone among Western nations in having no effective laws to limit media ownership by any one person. Labour has the power to do it, though its cowardice over the inclusion of newspapers in the competition bill suggests it won't. Brown's trip to Murdoch managers in Idaho suggests it won't. (Why didn't they come to see him?) God there's time for a change of heart, as day by day, Labour stretches its wings and discovers what it really means to be the masters now.

How does the Government's end of term report read? A flying start, excellent progress, of basically good character, but not yet reaching its true progressive potential.

After Bill, a purer prezza

Peter Preston



COME with me into one of the most fascinating offices on earth. And, if you see Tony Blair, Jack Straw and the Archbishop of Canterbury hanging around in the lobby, tell them to trot along too. John Ashcroft is waiting.

There now, double click. This is the Virtual Office of Senator Ashcroft (a US Senate web site). Click the picture by his desk to learn all about the man from Missouri. Click Legislation to read his Digital Copyright Clarification and Technology Education Act. Try an archive crawl to discover Ashcroft policy on any subject you like. I entered "Family Values" and got rather more than I bargained for.

We shall be hearing a lot about John Ashcroft any week now. He is one of the two Republican front-runners to be the next president of the United States. A smattering of polls already show him (and the other early strider, Governor George Bush from Texas) giving Al Gore a torrid time. And they do so not because the Clinton administration is floundering stupidly on the economy (at least, not yet) but because they are making morality and ethics into the issue. A natural shift. After Bill, a purer prezza.

When Ashcroft looks at "the pathologies of American culture today", he sees the seeds sown in the 60s. "We set a tone of licence — of freedom without responsibility. We thought it would be freedom without consequence, but the consequences are upon us." More familiar holy-rolling from the right-wing bully pulpit? Up to a point. The Senator may soon be the chosen son of the Christian Coalition. But only up to a point. He is also an immensely effective mainstream political operator with a passionate interest in high technology. He comes decked in modernity. Elmer Gantry is out to lunch.

The latest issue of the (New York) City Journal, yokes Ashcroft and Bush together as propagators of the "politics of virtue". They're both children of the 60s who renounce that legacy. They both believe that (in Bush's words) "God created us to make consequential choices". Good choices, bad choices, our choices. When George Jr tells high school students to "abstain from sex until you find the partner you want to marry", that's one of his good choices.

Wacky Waco stuff? It's a lecture Major Major would never dare give Major Minor. Or anything, indeed, that Mrs Thatcher would tried on Carol and Mark. But you'd be foolish to underestimate its attraction. The third turn of this virtuous circle belongs to Mayor Giuliani of New York. Guardian readers have just heard how he's cleaning his city of sex shows and porn outlets. They also know that he's one of the most popular politicians in America. New Labour's policy gurus went to take notes at his knee. They, too, have sampled the politics of virtue. They will not be immune from more, much more, of the same if it triumphs.

WE have, for the first time in many decades, a prime minister who is also a devout, up-front, practising Christian. What does that, in practice, mean? Thus far, you might say, it mostly entails emotional appeals to "trust me, because I'm trustworthy" when something goes wrong. But that can't be the end of the matter. Bush and Ashcroft are absolutely specific. "We have the power to make the world over again. It's theological." Where does Blair's Britain fit in?

The crucial difference, of course, is that though the UK is not a Christian country — while the US, lacking any such establishment, is. We talk of special relationships,

but here's the special dislocation. In Atlanta, the Rev Paisley would be a superstar of religious TV. Here, in mainland eyes, he's a bizarre anachronism. That contrast runs still deeper when you take your seat in the pew. The typical voice of the American God tells you what must be done, tells you how you must behave.

It thunders, often with menaces. The typical C of E voice questions and balances and reviews the options. Increasingly it seems to take its cue from the consensus of the parishioners themselves, so that the vicar, or the bishop in his palace, become rather like unselected MPs, transmitting the views of their flock as the wisdom of "the community".

It is not a confident voice. How could it be, amid so much decline? But when it is the voice of the outsiders and the forgotten, essentially a voice of opposition, as it was for Faith in the City — it is one which can clear its throat and ask that the politicians listen. Jerry Falwell instructs his congregation and Capitol Hill equally, because the force is with him. George Carey puts his hand up at the back of the class to ask where the force has gone.

See, though, how easily that confusion spreads. Last week, for their sins, our bishops turned ministers of state rather than ministers of God and used the House of Lords as their own, unselected, bullying pulpit to ditch the age-of-consent proposal. They failed under pressure. They juggled opinion polls like cheap spin doctors.

They allied themselves, in the name of supposed principle, with those who had no faith in the city.

And what meanwhile — apart from retreat — did our elected Government do? Through the agency of a cabinet committee, it began to



'We have the power to make the world over again. It's theological'

construct the surrogate religion of Whitehall weddings and christenings. "We promise to be patient with our baby, neither demanding too little nor expecting too much."

Jack Straw's family favourites have had a good press. They are deemed to be acting prudently, and in small ways perhaps they are. But the big way is bigger than all of us. New Labour is not a religion. Registrar office bureaucrats are not reverend gentlemen, just as bishops are not home secretaries. We wander into a moral quagmire when we start to blur and trim.

John Ashcroft wants church charities to take over the role of the state. He wants to privatise the agencies of help and let the pastors run them. He believes that "once everything's equal, you're not allowed to stigmatise anything" and that gold stars for everybody "are worth nothing". He, and Rudy and George Jr, are on the march, coming to a television station near us.

So we're different. But are we that different as we stumble through mazes of our own making? Their culture is increasingly our culture. Our 60s were their 60s. If the economic debate between right and left is over, how are we to cope with the virtuous debate? Beware: the man in the Virtual Oval Office is asking the questions now.

Endpiece: unnatural law

Roy Hattersley



THE first sound I heard yesterday morning was radio confirmation that another vote is likely on the age of consent. I ought to have been delighted. I face the chance to right last Thursday's wrongs with mixed feelings. In the Commons, members can usually guess the time at which the House divides. In the other place, to be certain of voting, peers have to hang about for the whole debate. Last week, I was even tempted into the chamber. It was an experience I do not want to repeat.

The vote itself was not a surprise. It was the argu-

ments which defied belief. The business managers in the Commons must have realised that the Lords would reject the proposal to reduce the age of gay consent. But nobody could have anticipated the intellectual inadequacy with which the deed was done. Peers pride themselves on being informed. If not enlightened.

Not last Wednesday night. When he wound up for the Government, Lord Williams of Mostyn spoke of the "sad incredulity" with which reports of some speeches would be read in the world beyond Westminster and Whitehall. It was an elegant rebuke. But it did not adequately reflect the yawning chasm between the House of Lords and reason.

Almost every speech in favour of discrimination contained a mistake of logic. Lord Haggard announced: "Homosexuals and heterosexuals are not equal... They are different." The confusion between equality and uniformity is a mistake which people who have not thought deeply on the subject often make. But usually they are

not in a position to impose their errors on legislation. However, Lord Haggard's belated worst solemnism of the occasion.

There is, said Baroness Young, who moved the discriminating amendment, no "moral equivalence between homosexual and heterosexual relationships". She felt no obligation to support her view with evidence. Her supporters did, however, offer justification for her bald assertion. "One is the natural order of things, the other is not," a noble lord declared. Another asked: "Is it valid and justified to argue the question of equality and discrimination when we are debating a situation where one activity is considered natural and the other unnatural?" The idea of considering what "natural" means had passed through neither head.

TAKE the case of Mr Peter Tatchell — not my favourite man and, in my view, a liability to the gay cause. He is undoubtedly part of nature and is, therefore — like the lilies of the field and the birds of the air — incap-

able of performing an unnatural act. By unnatural we mean, "not usual in our experience" or "inconvenient to society as presently organised". One peer opposed reform in just those terms.

Baroness Trumpington spoke "as the widow of a public school headmaster" and asserted from that privileged position: "To have the age of homosexual consent lowered from 18 to 16 for both sexes would have caused my husband and I venture to say, heads of boarding schools today endless difficulties." Let us hope that young gay men on the council estates of Britain — hiding their inclinations lest they should be arrested, prosecuted and imprisoned — are consoled by the thought that their sacrifice is not in vain. Discipline is being preserved at Eton and Winchester.

By far the most interesting speech, and in its way the most accomplished, came from Lord Mischon. He spoke of his membership of the Wolfenden Committee which he described as "having led the way" to making "homosexual acts between consenting

adults legal". It recommended that 18 should be the age of gay consent. Lord Mischon thought that there was no more to be said on the subject.

THE Wolfenden Committee's attitude towards homosexual law reform is identical to the Guess Who's Coming To Dinner? position on race relations — progressive in its time, but woefully out of date. Hard though it is to believe, it was created to consider the laws on homosexuality and prostitution as if they were related activities. And the Government chose to legalise prostitutes but to continue the criminalisation of gays. The Wolfenden Committee was set up in 1954. Age does not invalidate good ideas. Nor does it redeem bad ones.

Some ideas are always silly. And pretentious language does not make them sensible. Yet peer after peer insisted that if parliament "sent the wrong signal" to the country, young men who are "not formed in their sexual identity" would be encouraged to develop homosexual liaisons.

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'I would prefer the term sponsors to godparents at baby-naming ceremonies'
Rev Jane Banister, Letters

Reshuffle ritual

Blair should be brave

TONY BLAIR has hardly been short of advice this weekend — and of guesswork too. Much of it was centred on the rumoured elevation of Agriculture Secretary Jack Cunningham to the role of cabinet enforcer. So he won't particularly relish another earful from us. He's probably made up his mind by now, with the final shape of his looming ministerial reshuffle all but complete. Even so, there's still time for some last-minute reflection — and perhaps the odd word of friendly advice.

Two radical options have been open to the Prime Minister. First, he could question whether he needs to have a reshuffle at all. Mr Blair has made his mark as a politician by challenging the hoarder conventions of his craft, whether it is Clause 4 or Prime Minister's Questions. He could adopt a similarly iconoclastic attitude to the time-honoured ritual of the summer reshuffle, regarding it as one more habit he is brave enough to break. Think of the PR value of a

PM confident enough to declare that his Government is doing so well, he sees no need to alter it.

If that option doesn't appeal, there is another reforming choice Mr Blair could make. He might gaze around the Cabinet and decide not simply to move his colleagues around, but to take several chairs away altogether. He could solve the notorious Harriet problem by closing down the Department of Social Security — absorbing it into the Treasury. That would at least please the policy experts who have long suggested tax and benefits should be integrated. The Treasury already supervises the Inland Revenue; benefits could be handled the same way. Mr Blair might also reconsider the role of the Scottish, Welsh and even Northern Ireland Offices in the era of devolution. And does it make sense in the post-cold war world to have a separate Ministry of Defence, when force and diplomacy could come under a single roof at the Foreign Office? A brisk programme of downsizing and streamlining would certainly bring the Whitehall mandarins out in a collective rash. But Tony Blair always said his government would be more radical than people expect. A challenge to the narrow departmental-is of old would be a grand way to prove he meant it.

If the Prime Minister plans a more con-

ventional reshuffle, there are a couple of strategic thoughts he should bear in mind. First, the perceived existence of two governments within one. Many Labourites speak of the Brown and Blair administrations, as if they were two distinct regimes — each with its own loyalties and feildoms. We are regularly reassured that the PM and his Chancellor remain the best of chums, but if Mr Blair is looking out for himself he will keep a keen eye on the Brown-Blair balance. He will want to bring on his own loyalists while keeping a wary eye on Gordon Brown's favourites. He should not be paranoid, but neither should he ignore the dangers of ceding too much day-to-day control to his next-door neighbour: the new departmental "contracts" with the Treasury, whereby ministers can only spend with the Chancellor's approval, have already extended Mr Brown's reach yet further. Mr Blair will be forgiven if he uses the reshuffle to redress the balance, and seeks to Blairise what is still a remarkably traditional team of Labour ministers.

The second guiding principle, which might occasionally clash with the first, is merit. The Government is fond of tying reward to performance, and Mr Blair should do the same. He should only promote those who have done well — applying the standard harshly but fairly. On that logic, rather

than personal favouritism, it is hard to see that Peter Mandelson has earned promotion. He has brought at least as much trouble on the Government as success. In his own argot, Mr Blair has faced some hard choices. It would be admirable if some of them were at the expense of his friends.

Jakarta follies

Why was the MoD so naive?

EXACTLY WHY a letter from the Defence Secretary to Robin Cook about Indonesia has been leaked ahead of the reshuffle remains a mystery. Whether by accident or otherwise, it reflects very favourably upon the Foreign Secretary who opposed an application to export armoured Land Rovers to Indonesia. So, by coincidence, does the news first carried by The Guardian on Saturday that Mr Cook plans to "shake up" the FO in the light of the Legg report on arms to Sierra Leone.

Publication of the MoD letter may not entirely make up for the wobbly nature of British policy even under the generous cloak of Mr Cook's ethical foreign policy (EFP for short). A total of 56 military export licences for Jakarta were granted under the Labour Government, plus clear-

ance for other sales already approved by the Tories. There is also the little matter of that photo of the Foreign Secretary shaking hands with General Suharto which was featured in the FO's own end-of-year report on EFP. But George Robertson's attempt to argue a case in favour of Prabowo Subianto, the brutal general who is Suharto's son-in-law, is interesting in its own right.

General Prabowo seems to have been regarded as one of the chaps. He is described as "an enlightened officer, keen to increase professionalism within the armed forces and to educate them in areas such as human rights". He was a popular visitor at the British embassy in Jakarta, too. Apparently Prabowo's help in securing the release of some Western hostages in Irian Jaya two years ago strengthened his claim to be a good egg. All of this would be rich material for a Graham Greene pastiche with overtones of Yes, Minister. Unfortunately we are dealing with British official thinking towards a man notorious for encouraging "unorthodox" techniques in Kopassus, Indonesia's SAS. Prabowo's troops fuelled the popular protest in May by shooting students and abducting democracy activists. No wonder that Suharto's successors ditched him so promptly. And what a pity that our men in Jakarta could not have been ahead of the curve, and done the same a little earlier.

Letters to the Editor

Swinging golfers

IT IS gratifying that Professor Alan Turner (Swinging your golf club: here's how it's done, July 24) has "cracked" the problem. However, like most of the "new" developments in the ancient art, we've been here before. Gary Player recommended pushing the elbows together, as well as the knees. This does produce a constrained, repeatable swing but results in a loss of free movement. Henry Cotton also pushed his elbows together but he had the advantage of being able to keep his lower arms together from wrist to elbow. I'm sure the professor has had a lot of fun using the dynamics of a suspended compound pendulum, and if he had Science and Engineering Research Council funding, I envy him.

Dr J H Williams,
Merthyr Tydfil, Mid-Glam.

PROF Turner has studied the swings of the best golfers and arrived at a set of equations in the spatial co-ordinates X and Y only. Where's the Z co-ordinate? Does this imply that the best golfers are two-dimensional? Does Nick Faldo know this already? Pete Gibbs,
Cambridge.

Stumped

THE "geometry of the situation" clearly eludes Mike Selvey (Cruel finger cuts off Butcher in his prime, July 25), in his appalling tirade against umpire Steve Dume. A straight ball, delivered from the return crease, moves laterally by less than a ball's length as it travels from the batsman's crease to his wicket. My recollection is that the ball struck Butcher, on his crease, well within the line of leg stump — a similar delivery, in fact, to that which subsequently bowled Salisbury.

John Bone,
York.

SELVEY should have been equally critical of Mervin Kitchen's emping: his decisions against Jacques Kallis and Jonty Rhodes show that he is not fit for the task.

S K Krishnan,
Slough, Berkshire.

Whitabout it, Mr Aitken?

ACCORDING to Ian Aitken (Whitabout nation, July 25), "Alex Salmond is quite a nasty piece of work"; there is a "genuine risk of something not dissimilar to the Northern Ireland troubles engulfing us all over again"; "Scotland's national identity is sustained in the SNP by a 'deeply unpleasant resurgence of seining anti-Englishness which recalls the language of Sinn Féin and the IRA'".

To the best of my knowledge, Mr Aitken has never met or spoken to Mr Salmond. The SNP is proud of its involvement in Scotland's democratic process over the past 64 years. There is nothing in our policy, conduct or positive vision for Scotland to justify Mr Aitken's extremist language.

The party's civil nationalism is inclusive, and embraces Scotland in all its diversity. Our definition of a Scot is anyone who lives here, as well as anyone born here. Two of the fastest growing groups within the SNP are "New Scots" — those who have come to live and work in Scotland from elsewhere, and "Scots Asians for Independence", who celebrate their

Scottish and Asian identities. Mr Aitken refers to the SNP's policy of Independence in Europe as if it were something new — and a "diabolically clever piece of sharp practice on the part of the SNP". In fact, it was democratically adopted by the SNP conference in 1988.

He also discusses the "whitabout factor", the so-called tendency of Scots to be dissatisfied with whatever is on offer, and always to be asking for more. One of the many benefits of Scottish independence is that it will put the relationship between Scotland and England on an equal footing, and make Scots responsible for their own successes and failures.

One final whitabout: must Mr Aitken write a better informed article on the SNP and what we stand for next time round? Kevin J Pringle,
SNP Director of Communications.

IAN Aitken writes off the Callaghan referendum as failing Scotland through lack of interest, but nothing in politics is ever that simple. What about the caveats that all non-votes would be seen as

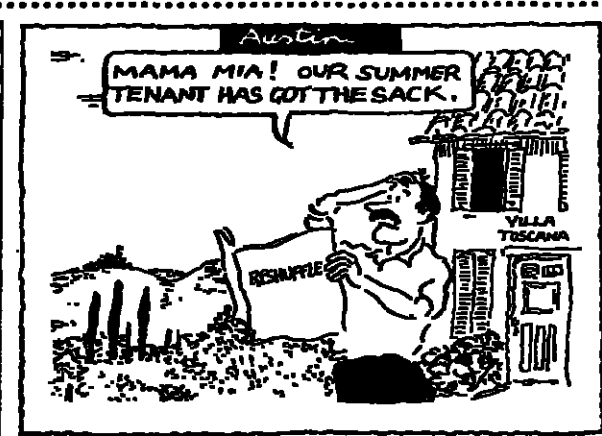
"No" votes and that even one vote short of 60 per cent meant "Yes" would fail?

But the worst perhaps was that although all the popular demands were being made for outright independence, the only question on the referendum form was: "Do you want devolution?"

CHN Hanley,
London.

SCOTTISH nationalism is sevil and equable to Sinn Féin? I spent June in France with the Tartan Army. Does an Aitken suggest we are racist nationalists? There were racist Brits fighting all over France in June but they were not Scottish. Maurice Hickey,
Frymouth.

WHAT's important is that the English do not get lured into hating the Scots back. Let's encourage them to go all the way and become independent, then we can seek to be a good neighbour to them. Let them emulate the Danish Folk Schools, to which all young people between school and work or university may go to learn life skills. These include relationships, parenting, budgeting, as well as a sense of community. This could break the cycle of crime caused by the lack of meaning and purpose in so many lives. Ted Dunn,
Manningtree, Essex.



Families and how they can survive

THREE cheers for the Dalston experiment discussed by Decca Aitkenhead (Teenage crime, July 24) with its members for youngsters and for Polly Toynbee's column (Hooray for Jack Straw, July 24) about the Home Secretary's proposal for a Ministerial Group on the Family.

But why not take the idea further and emulate the Danish Folk Schools, to which all young people between school and work or university may go to learn life skills. These include relationships, parenting, budgeting, as well as a sense of community. This could break the cycle of crime caused by the lack of meaning and purpose in so many lives. Ted Dunn,
Manningtree, Essex.

save the family, July 24). But I would request that the term "sponsors" rather than "godparents" be used at baby-naming ceremonies — there is a reason why godparents have that name, and it parents want a secular service then it is hypocritical to include God.

By the way, I am a priest in the Church of England, and I am also young and female. Most of us are not out of touch with the world, so don't write us off just yet.

Rev Jane Banister,
London.

Why French culture hasn't been lost to Hollywood

IT WOULD be better if British critics were to learn from the "enfeebled" and "protectionist" French film industry than to mock (Liberté, égalité, médiocrité, July 24). In recent years, more than 90 per cent of British box office receipts have regularly gone to US films, in contrast with the "failure" of the French to maintain more than a 34 per cent share of their own (much larger) cinema market.

Similarly, Canal + (the French pay TV equivalent of BSkyB) schedules more than 80 per cent French and European films compared to nearly 100 per cent US films on UK pay TV. French cultural policies have ensured the kind of cultural diversity that is inimical to the protectionism that Stuart Jeffries accuses them of.

This is underlined by the fact that, in some years, French cinema-goers see more British films than their British counterparts. If the French were truly paranoid about US domination, why do US films still take the majority of their box-office receipts?

The French are aware of something that we seem to forget: that the US has a comparative advantage in film-making. The only reason that British film and TV culture hasn't become submerged in a tide of US products is because we have the most highly regulated (and finest) broadcasting ecology in the world — one

which guarantees investment in creativity. The French are applying to their cinema the principles that we apply to broadcasting. To label this approach as protectionism is to misunderstand what is at stake. Culture is a public good. A free nation can no more survive without a vibrant culture than it can without an education system.

Carole Tongue MEP.

IF THE world has lost interest in France's war against American cultural imperialism and globalisation, could it be because it is waged, not for cultural diversity in general, but rather for a rigidly national and statist particularism? Witness the mayor who recently felt the full weight of the French state apparatus for issuing literature in the Provençal language. *Liberté, non pié!*

Alexander Goldsmith,
Kew, Surrey.

CONTRARY to your article (Today the Government will pledge more millions for British film, July 24), Sliding Doors was not "rebuffed" by the Arts Council — no application was made. Neither did The Full Monty. Sean or Spiceworld apply for lottery money. Indeed, not every British film applies to the Arts Council for funding.

Peter Hewitt,
Chief executive, Arts Council.

Building societies' first deposits

BUILDING societies did "come out of the same historical drawer as the Rochdale pioneers and the mill-hands' co-operative shop" (Board with Victorian values, July 22) but that drawer was part of an older mutual-aid chest constructed around local friendly societies.

In 1789, Parliament passed the first Act offering legal protection for friendly-society funds. By 1803, there were some 9,341 local friendly societies extant in England.

As with the better-known, affiliated friendly societies (Odd Fellows, Foresters, etc.) founded in the 18th century, building societies and co-operatives — such as the Rochdale local equivalents. The amicable building society, founded in Birmingham in 1791, appears to have been established following the success of some friendly societies investing

their accumulated funds in property.

Richard O Lister,
Hilfax, West Yorkshire.

GRAEME Burton (Letters, July 25) rightly points out that the "carpetbaggers" are not interested in having accounts, but only in making a quick buck.

If the 600,000 who joined the Nationwide recently (most of them to make easy money) were removed from the equation, the vote would have been strongly in favour of remaining mutual.

Perhaps those of us who would not like to see the death of the building society movement should start an anti-carpetbagger movement and open lots of accounts so we can balance the vote if and when it arises.

Andrew Hawton,
Northwich, Cheshire.

The deserted

FURTHER reflection by the Labour Government on the desertion of soldiers during the first world war (No pardon for deserters, July 25) might have resulted in a more acceptable judgment by the Armed Forces Minister. These deserters were doubtless questioning the assumption that it is a duty to blindly fight for your country, right or wrong. According to that assumption, in the two world wars, Germans fighting for Germany would have been doing the right thing. In order to consider the justice of a cause, all citizens need the right of conscientious objection. It seems clear that these 306 executed soldiers did not consider that taking a further part in the mass slaughter of the day was a fruitful way to proceed. No doubt countless Germans felt the same way. Dr Geoff Meaden,
Canterbury, Kent.

Rape of justice

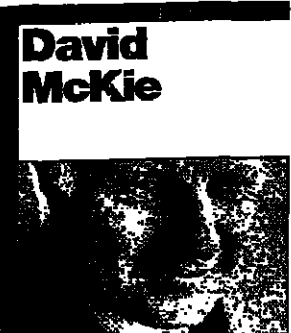
YOUR report (CPS apology over rape case fiasco, July 24) is an echo of a case four years ago involving my son who was charged with threatening to kill and remanded to Wandsworth — on the mistaken word of a policeman's daughter, a stranger.

The unquestioning complacency of the magistrates combined with procrastination and self-aggrandisement by the Crown Prosecutor and the withholding of evidence of his innocence by police, led to mental anguish which time

has barely begun to dissipate. The Police Complaints Authority was persuaded that the three officers concerned should be "admonished". The Home Secretary also was persuaded that the trauma was worth £5,000 compensation. Nonetheless, the truth is that innocence isn't the shield it's cracked up to be. Name and address supplied.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a daytime telephone number. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

Tall tales



ANY ECHOES here of a group of political practitioners recently in the news? In distant times in Denmark, writes Gerald of Wales (Giraldus Cambrensis) in his book, The Journey Through Wales, a young priest appeared out of nowhere and attached himself to an archbishop. So hard did he work and so uncannily useful did he make himself that the two became close friends. One day the young

man spoke of the former power of devils and how they dispersed at the birth of Christ. "Some hurried themselves into the sea," he said. "Others hid in hollow trees and in the cracks in rocks. I remember that I, myself, jumped down a well." Realising what he'd revealed, he immediately fled from the room. The archbishop never saw him again.

This is far from the tallest of many tall tales in The Journey Through Wales. Ostensibly it's the record of Gerald's expedition with Baldwin, Archbishop of Canterbury, in the spring of 1188 to recruit for the third Crusade. And here and there, that's what it actually is. "In Haverfordwest," one chapter begins, "first the Archbishop himself gave a sermon, and then the word of God was preached with some eloquence by the Archdeacon of St David's, the man whose name appears on the title-page of this book; in short, by

me." But he never stays on the subject for long. Each new stop on their journey becomes an excuse for a string of anecdotes, initially linked to the place where they happen to be but then wandering off wherever the spirit takes him.

Gerald simply cannot resist a good story. "I must tell you," he begins, grabbing you by the sleeve, and you're instantly whisked away into ghostly visitations, or lakes full of one-eyed fish, or the habits of dogs in Antioch.

His first glimpse of Caerleon reminds him of the story of a soothsayer called Mellyr who instantly knew when a lie was told in his presence. This Mellyr had an additional gift which, were he around today, would shut down the Guardian's Corrections and Clarifications column and put the Readers' Editor out of a job. Though illiterate, he had only to glance at a text which contained a false statement, or which aimed at deceiving the reader, and immediately

he could point to the error. Gerald clearly suspects that this story is pure invention. But he has the perfect defence for retelling it, and many more like it. "I can only answer with Augustine," he says, "that miracles sent by Heaven are there to be wondered at, not argued about or discussed."

THERE IS no false modesty about Gerald. His mission in life is to see the Church in Wales freed from the suzerainty of Canterbury and governed independently from St David's, with himself in the driving seat. He's past 40 when he travels through Wales with nice, ineffectual Baldwin, and he knows by now that it's not going to happen. "I myself have been appointed," he muses, "to a post of some importance, to use the jargon with which we are all so familiar, but it affords me no great promise of wealth and certainly, no expectation of

ever playing my part in the tragic pomps and ceremonies of this world. I occupy a tiny dwelling house not far from the principal castle of Brecknockshire and, indeed, adjacent to it. This is convenient for my studies and my work, and here I pass my time in a sort of happy-go-lucky mediocrity."

Gerald knows what he doesn't like. He doesn't like Cluniacs. He doesn't like women, who, he asserts are driven by uncontrollable malice, an assertion backed by quotations from Ecclesiasticus, Cicero and Juvenal. He distrusts and despises the English, Henry II in particular, for what they have done to the Welsh.

And yet, as he reveals in a second book, The Description Of Wales, he is not that keen on Welsh people either. They lie, he complains, they steal and cheat, they run away from the battlefield, they are given to quarrels and incest. Gerald is one part Welsh but

three parts Norman, and at the end of his Description of Wales, he suddenly unleashes two chapters of advice to the English on how to keep the Welsh in their place. One passage in the original, later excised, goes even further. "Indeed, it might well be thought preferable to eject the entire population into an unpopulated forest area and game preserve."

A late 20th century Guardian-reading liberal, Gerald is clearly not. But eight centuries on, he's still wonderful company.

The Journey Through Wales and The Description of Wales, by Gerald of Wales, edited and translated by Lewis Thorpe, Penguin Classics £8.99

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10 OBITUARIES

Tiny Rowland

The smile on the face of capitalism

JOSEPH Conrad described one of his villains as a "papier-mâché Mephistopheles". That was always the public image of Tiny Rowland, who has died aged 80. His secretive nature and mocking smile seemed to fit perfectly with Edward Heath's descriptive tag — "an unpleasant and unacceptable face of capitalism".

When the basic facts about Tiny's background were eventually winnowed out, they all seemed of a piece. Despite his Old Etonian airs, he was born Roland Walter Fuhrhop and had been a *Scharführer* (troop-leader) in the Hitler Youth before his family moved to Britain in 1934. Although he adopted an English name, he was interned during the 1939-45 war under a regulation employed to round up fascists. When he emigrated after the war to what was Rhodesia, he began dealing in dodgy gold mines, and later progressed to dispensing "special payments" to sleazy presidents; they gave him rewarding contracts.

For all that, Tiny Rowland was a curiously vulnerable tycoon. His creation, the £2 billion Lonrho conglomerate, had been snatched from him in 1993 by Dieter Bock, an ardent German property developer brought in to resolve mounting debt problems. And there was Tiny's enduring bitterness that Mohamed al-Fayed had acquired Harrods, the prize Tiny most desired.

Tiny was litigious to extremes. He used lawyers like birdshot. His legal battles with al-Fayed, with major oil companies, with fellow-directors who had tried to oust him, with former partners in aborted mining ventures — all cost Lonrho many millions. There were endless boardroom battles. In the end, the 60,000 once-doting small shareholders could stand such eccentricity no longer. At the last annual general meeting Tiny attended, he was a sad, neglected figure, staring at the new Lonrho directors on a platform he had dominated for more than 30 years.

His behaviour was so contradictory and enigmatic that many of those who tried to penetrate his facade imagined there must be a big secret within. In later years, it was generally accepted that he worked for British intelligence securing Britain's interests in post-colonial Africa. He also played a key role for Margaret Thatcher in putting together the Lancaster House conference which settled the future of Zimbabwe.

Tiny loved political intrigue, and tried to back winners in Africa. But often he got it wrong, bankrolling Joshua Nkomo in the belief that he would become Zimbabwe's president, and supporting the Unita leader Jonas Savimbi in Angola's civil war. At one moment Tiny would appear to be a lackey of the United States, at another he would praise the "Libyan" as "retailers in terrorism, the Americans are wholesalers."

Money was always Tiny's

ultimate goal — much of it made in Kenya. When need be he was ruthless: upon the death of Jomo Kenyatta, all relations of the newly-buried leader were sacked from their Lonrho posts, then Tiny turned his smile towards President Moi. Soon he gave him a fine stretch of farmland as the site for Moi University.

These instincts were inherited from his father, Hamburg-born Wilhelm Fuhrhop, who, in 1906 married, in what seems to have been a shotgun wedding, an Anglo-Dutch girl, Muriel Kauenhoven. The Fuhrhops had then sailed for Calcutta. Business flourished, but when the 1914-18 war began, the Fuhrhops were interned as aliens. In a well-guarded cantonment, east of Goa, Tiny was born and christened Roland Walter.

After the war the Fuhrhops made their way back from India to Hamburg, with two Indian servants — one of whom is reputed to have given Tiny — who would grow to over 6ft — his nick-

From Rhodesia, Tiny saw newly-independent Africa up for grabs. He moved boldly in, treating the continent like one vast car-boot sale

name. He went to Hamburg primary school, then entered the Heinrich-Hertz Gymnasium; there, like almost all his classmates, he enrolled in the Hitler Youth.

But in 1934 the family migrated to London. Mrs Fuhrhop was the driving force behind this move — possibly she may have been partly Jewish. Tiny was sent as a boarder to Church's College, an independent Hampshire grammar school. His Hitler Youth experience stood him in good stead in the school's officer training corps and he was immediately made a corporal. A picture of the corps survives. Tiny stands out amid the rows of stolid faces because of his smile and the rakish angle of his peaked cap.

After leaving school at 18, he joined his father's import-export business in London, then joined the shipping company run by an uncle. Tiny's western enjoyment was dividing fast cars around the Home Counties; he liked Mercedes. He also travelled in Europe, and liked boasting that he had been jailed by the Nazis for helping Jews smuggle out their possessions. It was an apocryphal tale. He loved wearing such fantasies about his background, including inventing relations.

In September 1939, Tiny's brother Raimund, being his father's favourite, joined the Wehrmacht, and fought all through the war. Military life was more humdrum for Tiny. Although he had hurriedly

changed his name to Rowland, and held a British passport because he was born in India, he could not disguise his origins. He became a private in the Royal Army Medical Corps. There was no risk of his meeting his brother on the battlefield.

Tiny spent three menial years in army hospitals in Scotland. His father was once again interned, this time in the Isle of Man, and Tiny Rowland was to join him, in the notorious Peel camp for high-risk Nazi sympathisers. Why this happened remains unclear. His wartime records are closely sealed. He always claimed that he went absent without leave, was arrested, sent back to Scotland, then taken under guard to Peel.

Some say he was committed to Peel for showing pro-Nazi sympathies, but there is no credible evidence of that. It is far more likely that he went there to become an informer, as the price of being near his mother, dying of cancer. Certainly he was suspected by fellow-detainees of being a spy.

Towards the end of the war he was transferred to the island's civilian camp and was with his mother when she died. Shortly after the war he lived in Mayfair, dealing in cars and importing oranges from Algeria.

Life took a decisive turn in 1948, when a business friend suggested that prospects looked splendid in what was then Rhodesia. It was an irresistible challenge. Tiny left Britain, taking his favourite Mercedes and leaving behind a large unpaid tax bill.

After 10 years of farming and dealing with mining prospects, Tiny was spotted by an aristocratic entrepreneur named Angus Ogilvy, who had interests in southern Africa. A new guiding hand was needed for Lonrho (the London and Rhodesia Mining and Land Company), which owned vast tracts of Rhodesia and held a healthy share portfolio in Britain. Lonrho had potential, but its management was sleepy.

TINY fitted the bill, but there was a large question-mark over the background he had reluctantly disclosed to Ogilvy. A senior Lonrho director was Sir Joseph Ball, a former member of MI5 and deputy chairman of the secret spy-hunting Home Defence (Security) Executive during the second world war. If Sir Joseph raised no objection, Rowland must have been clean.

In 1961, Rowland was made joint managing director, alongside Sir Joseph's languid Old Etonian son, Alan. From the outset, there was no doubting who called the shots. Tiny looked north from Rhodesia, and saw newly-independent Africa up for grabs. He moved boldly in, treating the continent like one vast car-boot sale.

The results were slow at first, then spectacular. By 1973, Lonrho's pretax profits were hitting £20 million, by 1980, they were £120 million. Life on the personal front

was just as promising. The Honourable Angus had in 1963 become the husband of Princess Alexandra, the Queen's cousin. A few years later, Tiny gave up a longtime mistress and married Josephine Taylor, the daughter of a former business partner. She was less than half his age.

The Ogilvys and the Rowlands had adjoining flats in Park Lane. Often they met, in dressing-gowns, for leisurely breakfasts. Angus was on the Lonrho board, together with the Honourable Gerald Percy, all paying court to Tiny.

But the idyll did not last. In 1973, the great Lonrho boardroom battle erupted, over the mounting debts created by

Rowland's more grandiose African schemes. It was the City sensation of the decade — and was to prompt Edward Heath's famous remark: "Dirt was flung recklessly. When Angus deserted and resigned from the board, Tiny wrote to him furiously: 'I will crucify you!' The rebels had wanted Gerald Percy as the new supremo, but Tiny won — with the backing of Lonrho's small shareholders.

For Tiny the affair seemed like a stupendous victory, but he was now branded as an outsider and no longer welcome in the better sort of boardroom. He grew paranoid, surrounded himself with sycophants, travelled

compulsively round Africa, showed signs of megalomania, and launched interminable lawsuits. The profits kept rising for some years, but so did the debts. The old magic had gone. "I have no friends," he said aggressively.

There was solace in family life, with Josie and their four children. They had a mansion beside the Thames in Buckinghamshire, a house in Chester Square, an apartment in Mexico, a yacht in the Mediterranean and use of the Lonrho jet.

One venture of Rowland's later years was the purchase of the Observer. In 1981, he was greeted with an hostility close to loathing, was allowed

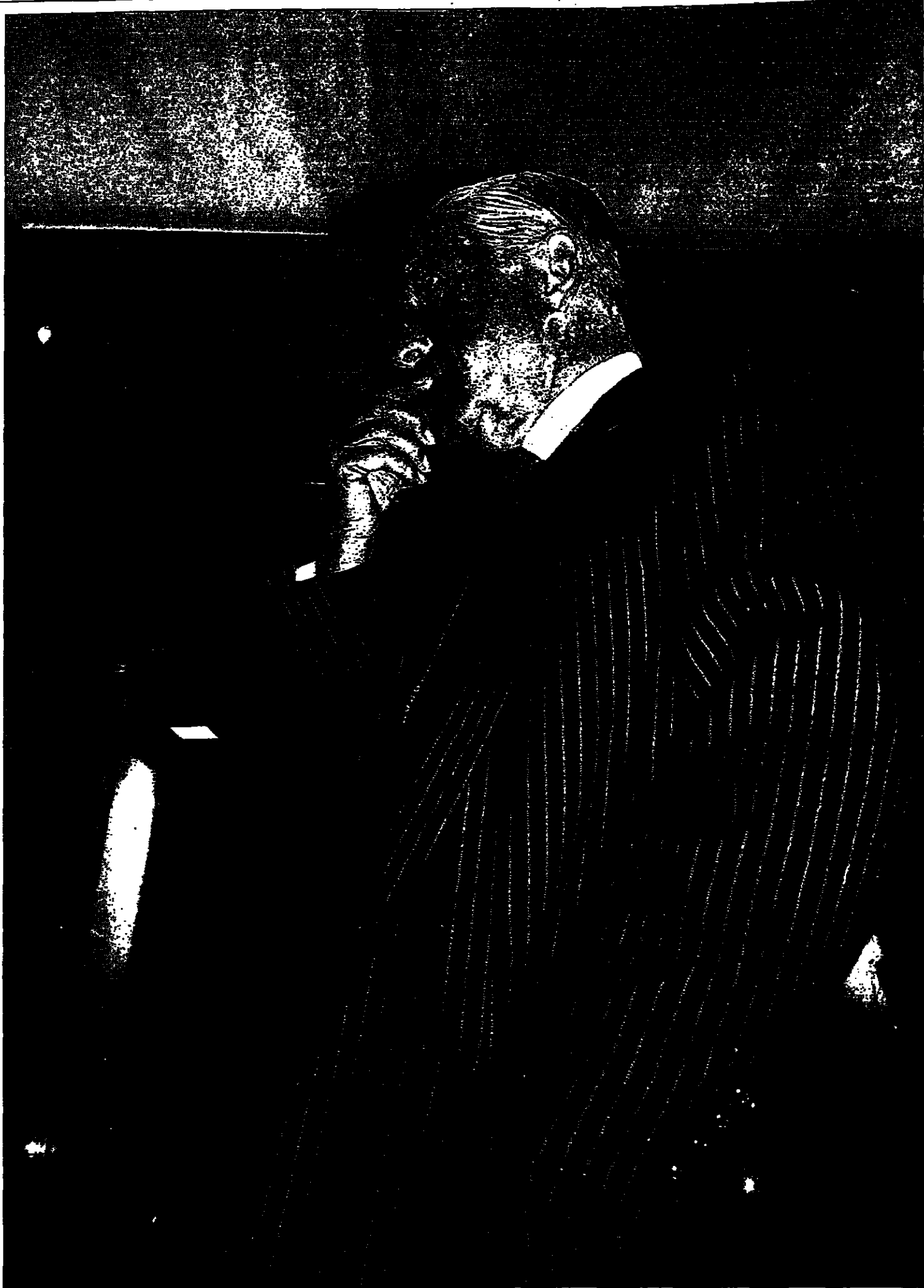
to interfere editorially, and left the paper — it was sold to the Guardian group in 1993 — even weaker than when he had acquired it. As part of his extraordinary feud with al-Fayed, Tiny had forced Mrs Thatcher to launch an investigation into al-Fayed's takeover of Harrods. When the Department of Trade and Industry refused to publish it, Tiny did so, in a special week-day edition of the Observer.

Leading Harrods had been the bitterest blow. He wanted to own the store. The al-Fayeds had outsmarted him by using the House of Fraser shares he had sold to them for more than £100 million — temporarily, as he thought, to

improve just one year's Lonrho balance sheet. He never got over it.

The ferocious diatribes he published were brilliant, but could not save the day. Although his invective made adversaries cringe, Tiny Rowland was too headstrong, his behaviour too impetuous for him ever to have stayed the course as a giant of capitalism. He was a unique opportunist, whose charisma faded with the years.

Richard Hall
Roland "Tiny" Walter Rowland (Fuhrhop), businessman, born November 27, 1917; died July 24, 1998



Tiny Rowland... a vulnerable tycoon, and isolated after he lost control of Lonrho

PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

Letters

Richard Fox writes: It's a pity that your sympathetic obituary of Kenneth Barnes (June 22) omitted his key role in the group of 11 Friends whose *Towards a Quaker View of Sex* (1985, revised 1994) was reprinted at least four times played such a large part in changing attitudes towards sexuality, especially homosexuals, who were still being hounded by police.

However, when, some years ago, the York Meeting (of which he was an elder) was being asked to recognise a "marriage" between two gay members, he and I agreed that our group never envisaged things moving that far.

When Frances died after a long and debilitating illness he married Eleanor, an ex-pupil who became director of the family fund of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. He rejoiced in her work as he did in her Roman Catholicism.

Too bad that your photo of him looks more like Michael Foot than the KCB I knew and loved.

Ana V. Reed writes: In your obituary (June 13) of Johnny Johnson, you stated that the words of the first sung commercial at the launch of ITV in 1955 were written by Harold Barnes. However, credit for composing the jingle "Murray-mints, Murray-mints, the too-good-to-hurry mints" rests with my late father Stanley Benn, a copywriter at SH Benson's.

Nan Berger

Communism's warm heart

NAN Berger, who has died aged 84, was awarded an OBE in the New Year's honours of 1948. Nothing odd in that, of course. Except that Nan was 33 at the time, a committed (though by that time probably not card-carrying) communist and a fairly lowly civil servant in the statistical department of the Ministry of Fuel and Power.

In the appalling deep-frozen winter of 1947, Nan was picked out by under-secretary Francis Hemming to work with him on getting such fuel as there was fairly and rationally distributed. This appealed to Nan's socialism and her organising abilities. All protocol discarded, she toured the country to find out what was really happening. With no statistical qualifications, she devised with Hemming a "numerate presentation" on which government plans to meet the fuel crisis were based.

Nan Berger was born near Manchester. Her father was a prosperous industrialist; the family home was comfortable but without any intellectual stimulation. So in 1935, Nan escaped to London, ostensibly to look after her brother, Peter, who was studying at the London School of Eco-



Nan Berger... an unorthodox civil servant

nomics. And they both joined the Communist Party. She struggled to read, and subsequently accepted, Marxism, but she was essentially a doer, not a theoretician. She had a passionate concern for the individual. Typical of this was the way that, on joining the Bank of England in 1940

(her first real job), she set about establishing a staff committee to represent the temporary clerks. She was summarily dismissed soon after, when the Bank looked into her political background. (The Bank apparently did not divulge its information since Nan was immediately taken

on by the Civil Service.) Nan left the Civil Service to bring up her children and she spent much of the rest of her life as a freelance journalist.

For many years, she edited *Health*, the journal for the Hotel and Catering International Management Association. This led her into an interest in school meals, which she maintained had an educational and social purpose, not just a nutritional one. She later wrote a book on the subject.

The position of women attracted her interest during the war when she saw temporary clerks (all women, of course) exploited and patronised, and again, after the war, when they were sent back to the home again. She was the co-author of *Women - Fancy or Free*, a lively, early discussion on the status of women, published in 1962. Similarly, she helped pioneer discussion on children's rights, and, in 1973, wrote a Penguin handbook on the subject.

Nan travelled widely — to learn first-hand about political movements. In 1939, she got to North America to attend the Congress of the League of American Writers, and to study the impact of President Roosevelt's New Deal policies.

Much later she went to South Africa. In 1962, Helen Joseph, newly released from five years under house arrest, arranged for Nan to join her on a trip to make contact with various units of the Federation of South African Women and to look for "banished" people. They visited townships and state farms where whites were forbidden. In her seventies, she became a governor of her local school in Islington, north London, and was taken on to help slow readers. A spell in a recuperative hospital in her eighties led to her being asked to run a discussion series for patients.

Nan never lost her basic faith in Marxism and all her life battled her enemy, capitalism. Nan possessed a supreme talent for friendship. She was devoted and loyal. No life could have been richer or more fulfilled on a personal level, and no one filled the unforgiving minutes as well as she did.

She was married to Roland Berger and they had two daughters.

Susan Marsden
Nan (Nancy) Elizabeth Berger, journalist, political activist, born March 8, 1914; July 16, 1998

A Country Diary

NORTHUMBERLAND: Steely grey skies, not conducive to picking soft fruit, sent me instead into the woods. Not ideal weather conditions for watching wildlife either, but I know where to look.

Midsummer brings midges and tall undergrowth, but at dawn beasts emerge to socialise and browse. Ten years ago, her on a trip to make contact with various units of the Federation of South African Women and to look for "banished" people. They visited townships and state farms where whites were forbidden. In her seventies, she became a governor of her local school in Islington, north London, and was taken on to help slow readers. A spell in a recuperative hospital in her eighties led to her being asked to run a discussion series for patients.

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colouring, stunts, rabbits and mice rustle in fallen leaves and chaffinches, their wings splashed with yellow, are pecking in twittering flocks.

The lost wood is coming to life again. I have not seen the yellow vireo there yet, she has found a quiet place to live, but I have seen her in the sand dunes, picking her way through the marram grass, snuffing at rabbit burrows. She may return. Last night a fine roe buck emerged from some larches less than 50 yards from where I stood.

Accompanying him was a yearling buck, the young beast acting as consort and watcher for the elder, a mutually beneficial arrangement seen between males of all deer species. They look in good condition. Perhaps, in the long term, the deer may benefit from the enforced absence because, having travelled, they will have interbred with other deer colonies in the neighbourhood.

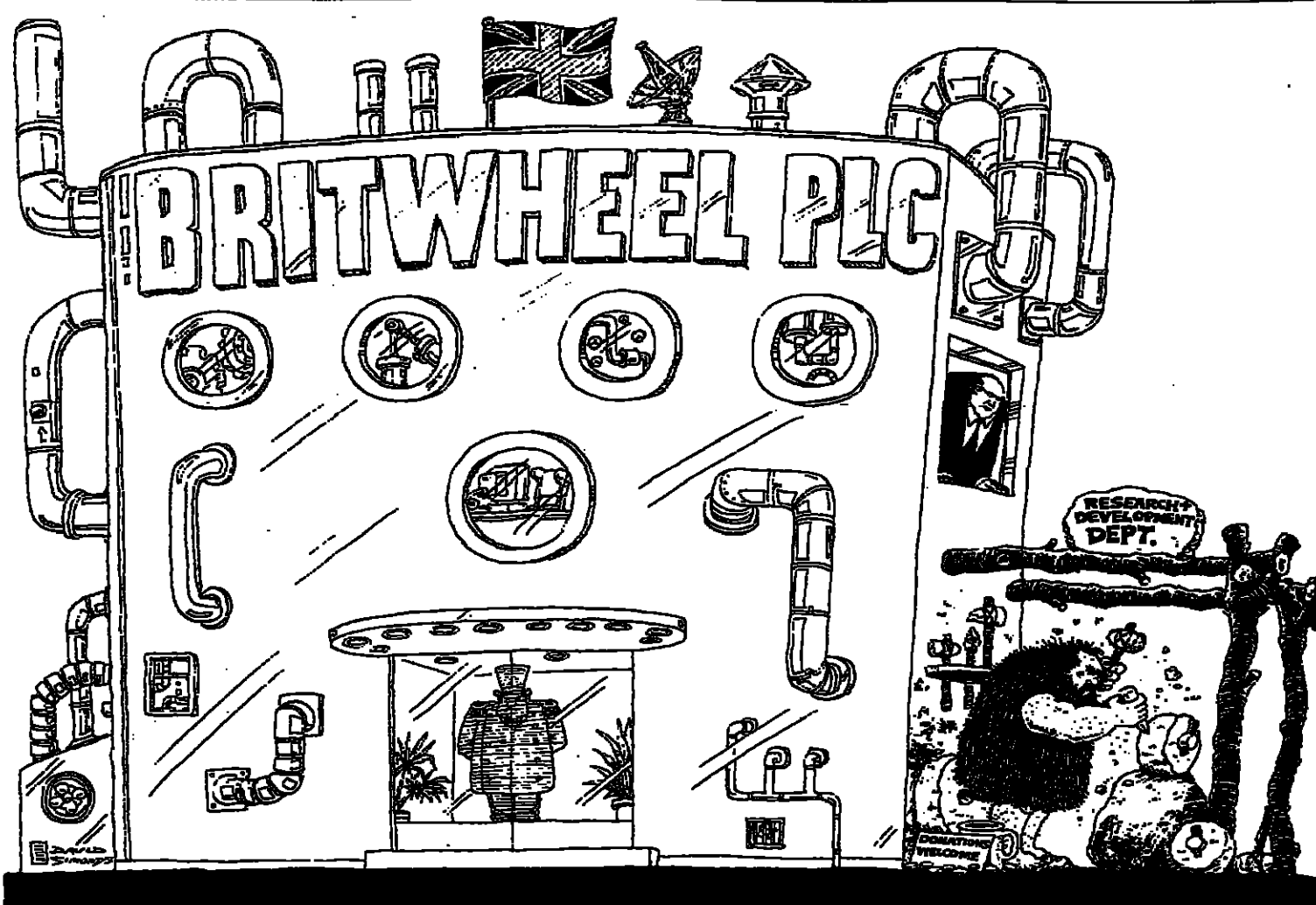
VERONICA HEATH

Birthdays

Michael Ball, singer, 36; Alan Border, cricketer, 43; Roseanna Cunningham, Scot Nat MP, 47; Christopher Dean, ice skater, 40; Jo Durie, tennis player, 38; Bobbie Gentry, singer, 56; Gabrielle Glatier, actress, 38; Elizabeth Hardwick, writer,

82; Jack Higgins (Harry Patterson), novelist, 69; Lord Jenkins of Putney, former Labour minister, 90; Ernie Ross, Labour MP, 56; Joy Whitty, pioneer of children's television, 68; Baroness (Shirley) Williams, Liberal Democrat peer, 68.

Now that job cuts have begun, the old slogan 'innovate or die' gains in urgency



Industry in need of a kick-start



Mark Atkinson

INNOVATE or die. British manufacturers seem to be opting for the latter. Their predicament — highlighted last week by a profits warning from ICI and 1,500 job losses at Rover — is, of course, not entirely of their own making.

The pound, up almost 25 per cent against the currencies of our main trading partners since August 1996, is playing no small part in the shake-out. Its strength, sustained partly by relatively high interest rates, is driving exporters out of foreign markets and exposing domestic sales to intense, cut-price competition. But the pound is also being used by manufacturers as a smoke-screen to hide their own inefficiencies.

Take the response of companies to sterling's ignominious exit from the European exchange rate mechanism in 1992. Instead of using the competitive advantage of a weak currency to build market position or increase investment, many companies took the opportunity to raise export prices and profit margins. Investment stagnated. In 1996, spending was less than in 1979. So, when the pound rose again, the damage was all the more severe.

Manufacturers have also been guilty of granting excessive wage increases in the upswing when profits were

good, which have become unsustainable once the downturn arrives.

None of this excuses the Chancellor for failing to raise taxes sufficiently on the consumer to offset some of the upward pressure on interest rates and the pound, and rebalance demand in favour of the traded-goods sector.

But it does justify the Government's attempt to make one of its main economic policy goals of the next few years an improvement in the UK's overall productivity, which, according to McKinsey, the international business consultancy, lags 40 per cent behind the US and about 20 per cent behind France and Germany.

Gordon Brown and the Trade and Industry Secretary, Margaret Beckett, are hosting a series of 10 seminars at which business people, policy-makers and academics discuss the nature of the problem and help to devise remedies. The latest one, last Thursday, focused on the importance of innovation and technology. Britain's record is less than glorious.

According to the CBI's 1998 Innovation Trends Survey, there was a drop in the level of expenditure on innovation by manufacturers from 5.9 per cent of turnover in 1996 to 4.9 per cent in 1997. That was not a one-off decline; the trend has been steadily downward from the peak of 6.7 per cent in 1994.

Yet the American experience — seven years of falling unemployment and low inflationary growth — has shown that exploitation of new technology and constant innova-

tion at all stages of the production process can reap huge dividends.

So what can the UK do to raise its game? The seminar threw up a number of suggestions. Larry Sosinski, a lawyer credited with nurturing many of the companies which have made Silicon Valley one of the most economically dynamic regions of the world, said its success was based on five factors.

First, the Valley has a vibrant venture capital industry, populated by small firms which are genuine partners in the enterprises in which they invest rather than arm's-length financiers looking for a quick return. Sixty-eight per cent operate in the hi-tech sector.

management skills needed to take small firms on to the next level of growth, and there is a plentiful supply of banking, legal and accounting expertise. "Wall Street was moving west," said Mr Sosinski.

Fifth, government regulates and taxes lightly so as not to stifle the risk-taking culture, and the legal system bends over backwards to accommodate business. Most issues can be resolved in a couple of days, with the courts sitting on Sunday if necessary.

It does not take an expert to see that Britain has a long way to go on all of these fronts. For example, while its venture capital industry is streets ahead of the rest of Europe, it is often criticised,

held in low esteem by its colleagues. Research and academic publications were still king and formed the basis of the funding mechanism for higher education.

He suggested encouraging enterprise by not paying academics for a full year. Instead, they could be on salary for nine months and make up the difference, and more, by pursuing business opportunities for the rest of the year.

Another participant complained about inward investment policy being directed at attracting firms to economically depressed areas to alleviate social distress. Instead, it should be drawn to locations where it meshed well with existing businesses of a similar or complementary nature, helping to ensure that success bred success. It was not about picking winners, but helping them grow to the overall benefit of the economy.

There was broad agreement that what Britain lacked was a culture which prizes success, a deep-seated problem.

In the US generally, and Silicon Valley in particular, there is no shame in failure and no stigma in success. Failure is cool, not to try is not, one contributor said.

In Silicon Valley, formal qualifications, tenure and seniority are irrelevant. All that counts is performance

Second, there is a stock-based capital market which gives investors, many of them big pension funds, an easy escape route if they want to get out, and linked risk and reward.

Third, the Valley has a vigorous entrepreneurial culture where background, formal education qualifications and personality do not matter. Tenure and seniority are irrelevant. All that counts is performance.

Fourth, there is an enabling infrastructure which combines the universities, big companies, the community and local services (banks, law firms, etc). The universities emphasise commerciality rather than research and welcome ideas from industry. Large corporations provide the breeding ground for the

with notable exceptions like 3i, for being too distant from the firms it seeks to encourage. Class barriers, while prizes success, a deep-seated problem.

And, while the Government is trying to forge stronger ties between business and higher education by committing an extra £1.1 billion to the venture capital industry, there is still a long way to go before Britain's academic institutions can match the economic might of Stanford and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Stanford alumni alone have created businesses worth \$1 trillion.

One of the British academic contributors to the seminar said that although his commercial activities made huge sums of money for his particular university he was still

Tourist rates - bank sells

Australia 2.59	Germany 2.9841	Malaysia 6.81	Singapore 2.77
Austria 20.08	Greece 474.82	Malta 0.6281	South Africa 10.09
Belgium 59.10	Hong Kong 12.44	Netherlands 3.2183	Spain 241.84
Canada 2.40	India 69.82	New Zealand 3.09	Sweden 12.80
Cyprus 0.8596	Ireland 1.1324	Norway 12.17	Switzerland 2.416
Denmark 10.97	Israel 0.6036	Portugal 200.55	Turkey 426.360
Finland 6.767	Italy 2.037	Saudi Arabia 6.00	USA 1.6063
France 9.57			

Sourced by Reuters (excluding rupee, shatel and dollar)

Learning to love our shackles

Debate

Edward Troup

HYPOTHECATION — linking specific taxes to specific spending — is back on the agenda. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, has won his battle with the Treasury to use congestion taxes and parking charges to fund public transport projects. Advocates of hypothecation may welcome this release from the Treasury's shackles, but earmarking can result in poor spending decisions. The argument for hypothecation is that the bad should be taxed to subsidise the good. But it obviously links tax and spending. A congestion tax earmarked for public transport will result in smaller subsidies if car use falls, even though the demand for public transport grows. If congestion taxes have little effect on behaviour and road use and tax revenues remain high, the result will be a public transport system which is over-subsidised and under-used. The level of public spending will be determined by the availability of cash, not by needs. Inevitably, central government will either stump up for any shortfall or try to claw back any excess. There is an argument for a different kind of hypothecation: taxpayers should benefit from the taxes they pay. Road tax should be used to pay for more roads, says the pro-roads lobby. If that were so, drinkers could see pubs funded by beer duty. The more pragmatic case is that a tax for a specific purpose is easier to raise. But should individuals have a choice in what taxes to pay? If I do not want to contribute to defence, I cannot opt out of paying income tax. Government spending is not a menu, it is a table d'hôte. The patron fixes the price and the food is as served — until the voters choose a new chef. Each call for a new tax or for extra spending should be assessed according to context. Faced with an undesirable activity — car use, pollution — taxation is an alternative or adjunct to regulation. The case for restricting use through taxation depends on there being an external cost associated with the activity which is not reflected in its market price. An efficient tax

will capture that cost so congesters and polluters pay their fair share.

On the spending side the arguments are reversed. Trains and buses need state subsidy because the fares passengers are prepared to pay will never reflect the full value of efficient public transport, cleaner air and clearer roads. Valuing those benefits is as difficult as measuring the cost of congestion.

Whether to tax or subsidise is a hard choice. How to tax or subsidise is harder still — car tax, fuel duty or road charging? Subsidy by capital investment or reduced fares? Congestion tax is sensible and public transport subsidies are necessary. True, but no more an argument for hypothecation than the truths that "smoking is harmful" and "old people should be cared for" mean that tobacco duties should be used to fund the state pension.

In reality, it is the prospect of escape from those Treasury shackles which most attracts the advocates of hypothecation. They are only too anxious to loosen central government control on spending but are rarely willing to give up the guarantee of central support if tax revenues fall.

The debate on hypothecation too often obscures an unwillingness to justify spending decisions in the wider context of pressures on government resources.

By giving in to the hypothecators the Government will encourage those who want to see more taxes levied in this way — pollution tax to clean up the environment, tobacco tax to pay for the health service.

Popular services will be over-subsidised when times are good but suffer when they are bad; but other priorities will fight for a share of a decreasing cake of general taxation. Control over overall government spending, an essential part of good macroeconomic management, will be weakened.

Hypothecation reduces transparency in public spending and abrogates decision-making on an essential government function — how to divide finite state resources.

The Treasury was right to resist the calls for hypothecation of new car taxes. It is regrettable it did not succeed.

Edward Troup is head of tax strategy at Simmons & Simmons and was an adviser on tax to the former Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke.

Earmarking taxes is likely to weaken controls on wider public spending

Indicators

TODAY — US: Existing Homes Sales (June).

TOMORROW — UK: CBI Industrial Trends Survey (July).

WEDNESDAY — UK: Consumer Credit (June).

THURSDAY — US: Employment Cost Index (Q2).

FRIDAY — US: GDP, advance (Q2).

JP: Consumer Prices, Tokyo (June).

JP: Unemployment Rate (June).

Sources: HSBC Economics & Investment Strategy.

Economics made easy

Also known as the millennium bomb, or in Wall Street jargon, the Y2K problem. In a nutshell, it's the inability of some computers to understand four-figure dates. Many early programmes truncated dates to the last two figures — '91, '92 and so — to save on memory space. The problem is that when the date rolls over from 1999 to 2000, these computers will think they've gone back 99 years to 1900.

Charlotte Denny on the economy's computer date with disaster

What is the millennium bug?

Also known as the millennium bomb, or in Wall Street jargon, the Y2K problem. In a nutshell, it's the inability of some computers to understand four-figure dates. Many early programmes truncated dates to the last two figures — '91, '92 and so — to save on memory space. The problem is that when the date rolls over from 1999 to 2000, these computers will think they've gone back 99 years to 1900.

I can change my computer's calendar, so why can't programmers just fill in the right date on the software?

Because many computers have internal clocks embedded in their chips which aren't simple to change. There are billions of

lines of code controlling these processing systems, much written in outdated computer languages. Unfortunately, for many processing tasks it is vital for the computer to keep track of the date.

How will the millennium bug affect the economy?

In two ways. First of all, companies will have to spend a lot of money of money employing IT specialists to solve the problem. While good for computer experts, whose wages are soaring because there aren't enough of them around, for the economy it represents a waste of resources.

What do you mean?

It's like cleaning up after pollution, which although it

boosts the gross domestic product figures, isn't productive.

However, the increased spending on cleaning up the millennium bug will boost output by the IT sector, even if it is wasteful in a wider economic context.

Rather than counting towards final output, it will just show up as maintenance in the national accounts.

Why is that?

It is not productive spending because it doesn't "add value" to anybody's life — apart from the "techies", who are raking in some big salaries.

The money could have been invested by companies in plant or training, which would boost output in the future. Instead it's been diverted to solve a problem.

How much will it cost?

Companies will spend between £30 billion and £70 billion, according to analysts at HSBC Markets — between 4 and 9 per cent of GDP. HSBC estimates output will be 0.5 per cent lower by 2000 as a result of money being diverted from more productive investment.

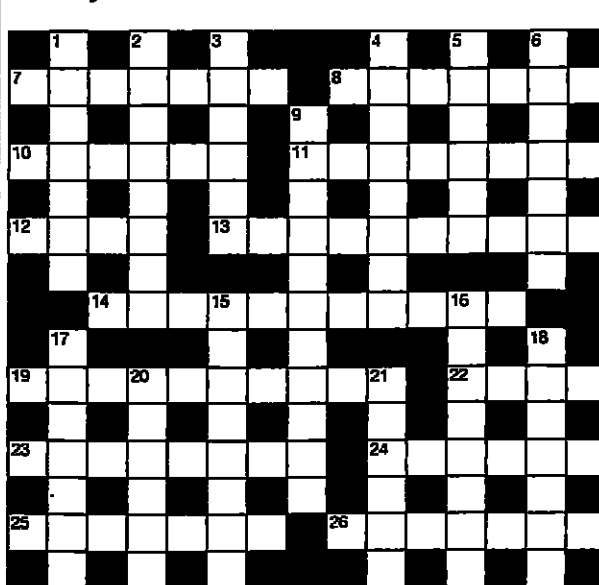
However, it will cost a lot more if the problem isn't solved.

What would that cost?

If there is a widespread breakdown in information and communications technology, which is the backbone of most economic activity, it could spark a global recession. Ed Yardini from Deutsche Bank estimates that there is a 60 per cent chance the bug could spark a world-wide recession in 2000.

Guardian Crossword No 21,337

Set by Rufus



Across

- Interrupt a burglary (5,2)
- I got into bed in an obstinate mood (7)
- Grow something to eat (6)
- Get ready for the night (8)
- Not a fully-grown creature, whichever way you look at it (4)
- A person known for putting on airs? (4,6)
- Dishonest dealer (4-7)
- Canal employee identified by hair and ring (4-6)
- Where hangings still take place in London (4)
- Dislike test said to be complicated (8)
- Device for making bits smaller, or larger, we hear (8)
- Antipathy from the gallery (7)
- Two items on the afternoon menu — or just one? (7)

Down

- Unusually proud to make a fresh start at Rugby (4,3)
- Review troops in Central America (8)
- Describing Jill when cut off by Edward (6)
- Bird gives one a shock after dark (8)
- Artistic piece-work (6)
- Some rash German, perhaps (7)
- Member of a cricket family soon on legs? (11)
- Equestrian discipline is a habit that comes with time (8)
- Recent stir about an actor's appearance (8)
- Primate possibly irregular in speech (7)
- After take-off, flies past (7)
- Young Tom has to catch up on young Christopher (6)

21 Riddiculed for being poorly dressed (6)

Solution tomorrow

22 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 333 233. Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. Service supplied by AT5

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycling rate up 4.1% of the way towards 10% in the first half of 1997



First time lucky for winner

THE Guardian's financial editor, Alex Brummer (centre), congratulates Mike Langton on winning our annual economics forecasting competition, watched by Sue Langton and Sunder Katwala, from Macmillan, the competition's sponsor. Mr Langton, who teaches economics at Wallingford School, Oxfordshire, entered the competition for the first time this year and outscored hundreds of others to win the magnum of champagne and £500 worth of books from Macmillan.

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

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FinanceGuardian

Firms ill-prepared for euro

Small businesses could lose profits

Mark Atkinson
Economics Correspondent

BITAIN'S smaller businesses, which account for nearly half of private sector jobs, are comprehensively failing to prepare for Europe's single currency, according to a top-level Treasury report to be published tomorrow.

Only 11 per cent of small and medium-sized enterprises

are aware that the euro is being launched on January 1. While 31 per cent feel they should make preparations, only 5 per cent have done so, the report reveals.

Department of trade minister Lord Simon, former head of BP, told the Guardian that unless SMEs took steps now to get ready they could see their profits hit.

"If they don't start to prepare they will be caught on the hop," he said.

The report is the first in a

series of six-monthly bulletins to be produced by the Treasury on the state of business preparations for the euro.

Although Britain will not be among the 11 countries in the first wave of euro members next year, the report highlights the close trade and investment links between the UK and the EU and says it is vital that British businesses are ready for the opportunities and challenges that the single currency will create.

"That requires strategic planning and practical preparations," says the report, compiled by the Treasury's new Euro Preparations Unit, set up in the wake of Labour's election victory.

The report says that even firms which don't trade with

Europe may find themselves indirectly affected because they form part of supply chains which connect with the euro zone.

Yet, while preparations are nearly complete in the City and well advanced in other sectors, such as retail banking and multinationals, they have barely begun in the SME sector. Even those 5 per cent of SMEs that have started to get ready for the euro have only done so at a technical level, says the report, citing the results of a telephone poll by the Euro Preparations Unit. For example, they have changed their IT systems or opened euro accounts.

But there was "little evidence of companies taking a strategic approach or looking at the implications for their

markets and competitiveness. Nor was there evidence of these companies realising that the introduction of the euro could present new business opportunities".

Economists expect competition to be boosted by the increased transparency of prices inside a single currency zone.

To help business understand the impact of the launch of the euro, the Treasury has published a series of ten factbooks, covering areas such as foreign exchange risk and conversion between sterling and the euro, and plans to release another 10 by September.

It has also opened a euro telephone line (08455 01 01 99), a website (<http://www.euro.gov.uk>), and launched a

newspaper advertising campaign to be supplemented by television advertising and direct mailing.

Looking further ahead, the Government will publish an outline changeover plan at the turn of the year of the steps which will be required if the UK opts to join the euro in the next parliament.

"In some cases, this will build on work which is already well advanced, for example in planning for the replacement of sterling banknotes and coins," says the report.

It says that when making changes to computer systems or software, some businesses are considering products which could be easily converted to use euros if the UK decides to join.

American Notebook

Strike may wreck GM's repair job



Mark Tran

AMERICA'S car industry is not the force it used to be. The two-month strike at General Motors, the world's largest company, has attracted scant attention. Last year's strike at United Parcel Service generated more interest.

Things may change should the estimated \$1.8 billion dispute between GM and the United Auto Workers union persist, although hopes rose yesterday for a breakthrough. For now, showrooms hold enough GM cars to meet demand well into August. Should the strike end soon, GM can easily crank up production with overtime to avoid shortages. If anything, economists see the strike that has put 193,000 people out of work as a blessing in disguise. It is expected to shave about 0.5 per cent off economic growth in the second quarter, welcome news for an economy growing too fast for Wall Street's comfort.

The lack of urgency points to the fading importance of an old-style industrial company once considered a bellwether stock. In the 1920s, Alfred Sloan, GM's creator and chairman for 35 years, said his company would be known for "building cars for every purse and purpose". GM also gave the world the line "what's good for General Motors is good for America".

GM still has \$178 billion in sales, but America's economic landscape is changing, with the decline of old smoke-stack industries and the rise of the hi-tech sector, typified by Microsoft and Intel. Imagine the furor if Microsoft lurched to a halt for some reason — although industrial action is unlikely because it is a non-union company.

For GM, the strike is yet another setback at a company desperately trying to recapture its former success. Much has improved since Jack Smith took over as chairman after a boardroom coup against Robert Stempel in October 1992. The putsch engineered by GM's institutional shareholders led to an overhaul of management that won the company much praise for its corporate governance. Mr Smith, who rose through GM's ranks, took over at a time when the company was close to filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, after losing \$30 billion from 1990 to 1992.

MR SMITH succeeded in saving GM by lightly restyling and updating old models such as the Buick Century and Chevrolet Corsica, and underpinning the competition. The company won on a brutal cost-cutting campaign throughout its production system, forcing suppliers to bid lower and consolidating its purchasing programmes. GM shed its non-

car businesses such as Electronic Data Systems, Hughes Aerospace and a chunk of its Delphi parts division. The new management decided GM would succeed or fail solely on its strength as a carmaker, a bold gamble because it has not made a substantial profit in its North American operations for decades.

But the world has moved faster than GM. For all its progress, GM failed to keep up with Ford and Chrysler, let alone its Japanese rivals. GM's revenue per vehicle is less than Ford's or Chrysler's, likewise profit per vehicle. While worker productivity has improved, it still falls short of Ford's, not to mention that at Toyota and Honda. The recent DaimlerChrysler merger and speculation of a Volkswagen-Volvo pact serves only to increase pressure on GM.

That pressure explains GM's decision to take a hard line in the present dispute, sparked by the company's decision to cut the workforce through the sale of plants at Delphi and through attrition. GM needs to shed 30,000 or 40,000 hourly workers to match its Detroit rivals. GM is bedevilled, however, by the worst labour relations of the Big Three carmakers and possibly in the whole of US industry. Ford has dropped models and closed plants but avoided strikes. GM cannot get its act together with its workers, despite a dozen strikes in the past few years that have cost an estimated \$2.9 billion.

Poor labour relations can only hamper the drastic changes needed. The company has seven car and truck divisions — a legacy from the 1920s, when GM was assembled piecemeal from individual vehicle and component manufacturers (not until later this year will Buick and Oldsmobile move out of their headquarters in Flint and Lansing to Detroit). It does not help that the self-effacing Mr Smith lacks the clout to keep GM's fiefdoms from battling each other. GM's many divisions are hard to justify after its US market share has dropped from its traditional 35 per cent to 31.1 per cent in 1997.

The history of GM's successful mid-price compact, the Saturn, introduced in the 1990s, underlines the company's lack of leadership. The Saturn lured consumers from Toyota and Honda, but fighting over resources blocked GM from upgrading its basic design or adding a new model since 1992. Even more damaging, other GM divisions make small cars that compete with Saturn. GM's fundamental problem is a surfeit of everything. Too many models (56), too many assembly plants (220) and too many workers (220,000) for its US market share. The longer the strike goes on, the more likely that GM will suffer permanent loss of market share in a vicious circle. Mr Smith rendered a huge service to GM by staving off disaster when he took over, but it may be time for the board to look to an outsider to make the hard changes in direction for the carmaker to thrive, not just survive.

British executives warn investors that deal will not yield early windfall

BT siege breaks down US barrier

Simon Beavis
Media Business Editor

BITISH Telecom executives were last night hailing the end of a 14-year quest for a significant place in the American phone market when they announced a \$10 billion (\$8.1 billion) tie-up with AT&T to serve multinational companies.

But directors warned their shareholders not to expect a quick windfall in the form of a share buy-back.

As he announced the deal Sir Peter Bonfield, the company's chief executive, said that BT would move slowly before deciding how best to use its strengthened balance sheet.

BT is soon to receive a \$7 billion injection from the sale of its 20 per cent stake in MCI, the US company it tried to merge with last year only to be pipped at the post by WorldCom.

Sir Peter said that a share buy-back was an option, but that there were plenty of opportunities to maximise returns for shareholders by investing in the industry.

Directors promised that the tie-up with AT&T — which could take up to a year to get through the myriad competition regulators on both sides of the Atlantic — would boost earnings immediately.

The deal will see the companies trying to take the lead internationally in supplying specialist voice and data services to multinationals using a new network with an Internet-based protocol.

The \$500 venture is expected to generate \$1 billion in profits in the first year, to grow at between 15 and 20 per cent and boost earnings by 2p a share in the first year, then by another penny a share in the following two years.

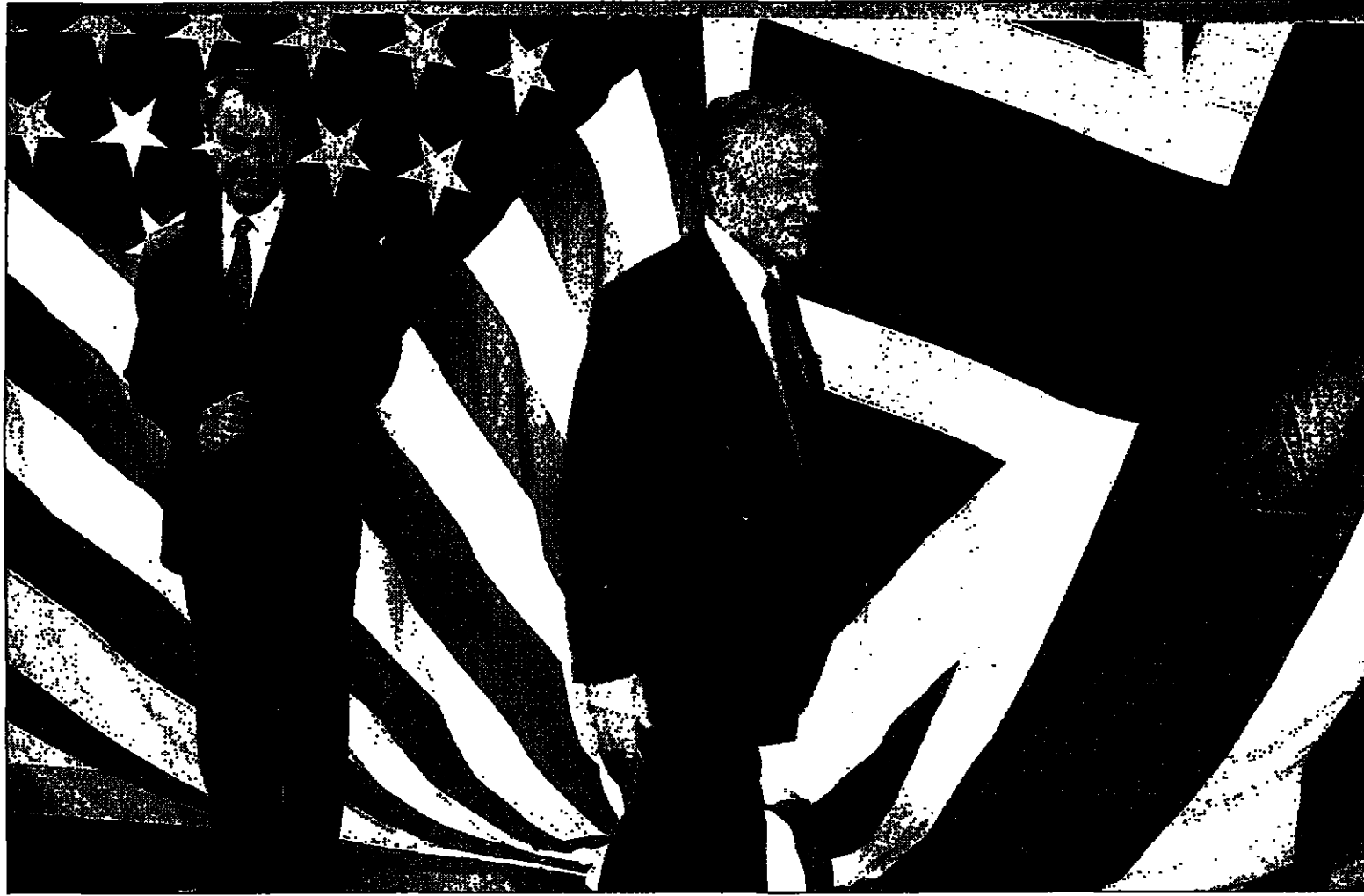
But the history of BT's American siege — punctuated with bungles, miscalculations and failure — will leave many questioning whether it really has finally clinched the holy grail or whether the deal, like many before, will come unscathed.

Sir Peter made it clear that BT now had no plans for further investments in local phone companies in the US — a long-term aim of the company before yesterday.

Soon after privatisation in 1984, BT set about extending its monopoly UK business to lucrative foreign markets. In 1986, BT paid \$156 million for 51 per cent of MCI, Canadian telecoms manufacturer. Investment failed and BT sold out, shouldering a loss of around \$125 million.

1988: Pays nearly \$1 billion for 20 per cent of US mobile firm McCaw Communications. US regulators refuse permission for BT to increase stake, which it sells to AT&T for a \$1.2 billion profit.

1993: BT uses McCaw windfall to buy 20 per cent of MCI — which led to later agonies. But it was the founding stone of yesterday's deal, as BT and MCI set up Concert.



Gateway to the states... AT&T president John Ziegler ushers BT's Sir Peter Bonfield into the long-sought US home market. PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GOWIN

Telephone numbers

BT	AT&T
Revenue	Revenue
Profits	Profits
Employees	Employees
Customers	Customers
Number of countries with operations	Number of countries with operations

Revenue	\$24.6 billion	Revenue	\$24.1 billion
Profits	\$2.2 billion	Profits	\$2.8 billion
Employees	125,000	Employees	130,000
Customers	27 million (in UK)	Customers	90 million
Number of countries with operations	230	Number of countries with operations	230



1995: BT tries in vain to merge with UK rival Cable & Wireless to gain access to Europe. Eastern markets where C&W are strong. But \$33 billion link founders in acrimony.

The board struck back in the US in 1996 with a deal to buy MCI for \$33 billion in cash and shares. Misfortune, muddle and corporate mismatch scuttled the deal.

MCI surprised BT — despite the fact the British company had three executives on the MCI board — with a shock profits warning in mid-1997.

Under pressure from investors at home, BT demanded that MCI accept a 15 per cent reduction in its offer.

MCI duly did, but not before

Endgame of two needy telecoms companies

Mark Tran charts partner-swapping path that led to corporate marriage

American telecoms group AT&T has moved to transform itself from a floundering giant into an aggressive market competitor for the Internet era.

Doubts linger about AT&T's ability to fend off new, more nimble players. But at least AT&T has a clear strategy under chairman Michael Armstrong, formerly of Hughes Electronics, where he made an impact in satellite television. Before that, he was an IBM veteran.

Mr Armstrong's first priority was to try to obtain a chunk of the \$110 billion (97.1 billion) local market at a time when its core long-distance business was being attacked by newcomers such as Level 3 and Qwest.

These upstarts, not burdened by AT&T's huge fixed costs in old technology, can

undercut AT&T's prices. Mr Armstrong's initial stab at the local market was to buy Teleport Communications for \$1.3 billion. Teleport, partly owned by a group of cable companies, provides local phone services to business.

AT&T then made its big move with the \$48 billion purchase of Tele-Communications Inc., America's largest cable company. TCI's network provides AT&T with access to 22 million cable-ready homes and a digital platform for selling long-distance and local service, plus cable and Internet services.

If the deal goes through as expected, AT&T would also acquire significant media assets, making America's largest long-distance phone operator also a media concern.

Under the TCI umbrella is a rich array of programming assets, including stakes in some of the most popular cable networks — Discovery, Black Entertainment Television and Fox-Liberty. But AT&T will have to spend billions to upgrade TCI's cables for telephony, and Wall Street has not been convinced by the TCI link-up.

In the weeks following the announcement of the AT&T-TCI deal, Mr Armstrong was trying to convince shareholders of the merger's merits.

TCI was going to provide the means for AT&T to crack the local market, AT&T needed a partner for the international business.

AT&T has shed away, generally from investing large amounts of money in order to build lasting relationships with its foreign allies. Instead, it has preferred to lose its agreements with more than a dozen carriers.

In 1997, Telefonos de Espana, the largest telecommunications provider in Latin America, defected from an AT&T alliance to join a group then led by BT and MCI Communications, America's second-largest long-distance company, now in the process of merging with WorldCom, another long-distance player.

It has been a game of musical chairs. BT was going to acquire MCI, which lured BT in favour of WorldCom. Then BT and AT&T looking around for international partners, and now they have found each other.

CBI aids diplomacy drive by rolling out red carpet for President Menem

Alex Brummer
Financial Editor

THE Confederation of British Industry has chosen the unlikely figure of Carlos Menem, president of Argentina, to be the star speaker at the employers' organisation's annual conference in Birmingham next November.

The move is certain to be seen in diplomatic circles as an important step in the improvement of relations between the two countries, which are still fragile some 17 years after the Falklands war, as was evident from the scenes before and after England's World Cup defeat in St Etienne.

The address to the CBI will be the first official

visit to the UK by an Argentine leader since 1961.

Mr Menem, a Peronist who only last week decided that he would not be contesting a third presidential election in Argentina, is widely credited with having restored democracy to the country and implementing the economic reforms which brought an end to Argentina's chron-

cally high levels of inflation.

Argentina is Latin America's second-largest economy and has thus far survived the financial assault on emerging-market countries which followed the Asian crisis.

Britain's exports to Argentina have risen by 230 per cent since the start of this decade, making it

the second most important Latin American market for the UK. In recent years there has also been heavy inward investment to Argentina by companies ranging from British Gas to P&O and Cadbury.

Adair Turner, the CBI's director-general, hailed President Menem's visit, the first to a CBI conference by an incumbent over-

seas president, as an important event.

"The CBI looks forward to welcoming President Menem to its national conference and is pleased to have been included as part of this important UK tour. I am sure the visit will be a significant milestone in the development of bilateral relations between Argentina and the UK," he said.

دكتور الامين

In the acclaimed 12-page sports section



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The Guardian Sport

Monday July 27 1998 www.football.guardian.co.uk

South Africa feel the rough edge of controversy



Down but not out... Mike Atherton takes evasive action against an Allan Donald bouncer at Trent Bridge yesterday. The opener also survived a vehement appeal for a catch to put England within sight of a historic victory

CLIVE MASON

England v South Africa: fourth Cornhill Test, fourth day

Atherton stands, Fraser delivers

Mike Selvey sees the England batsmen survive a torrid final session to put a historic win within reach at Trent Bridge

AFTER a month or so in which scorn and derision have been heaped by the England team, redemption beckons. A fine Test match has been bubbling up here and it is just possible — fingers crossed — that Alec Stewart and his side will win it and square a series that had seemed doomed.

The equation is simple: to beat South Africa and take the series to a climax at Headingley on Thursday week England need a further 188 runs and have nine wickets in hand. They will begin the final day on 108 for one, with Mike Atherton unbeaten on 43 after more than three hours under a mighty cosh, and Nasser Hussain on 23, the pair having added 88 so far.

The situation might have been a lot worse, though, had the New Zealand umpire Steve Dunne not dismissed a claim for a catch at the wicket during a torrid eight-over spell by Allan Donald from the pavilion end in the final session.

Donald was operating around the wicket when his bouncer, fast and at that awkward height where the

batsman can neither get his hands high enough nor sufficiently low, appeared to clip Atherton, 27 at the time, on the top glove as he tried to sway out of the way.

The ball would have dropped short of first slip but Mark Boucher dived across to take the catch at grass level.

Atherton stood his ground as the South Africans celebrated, perhaps trusting to the umpire's decision — everyone does these days — or maybe even wondering if Boucher had taken the chance cleanly, as everyone also seems to do these days.

The response of the bowler was entirely predictable and brought the most compelling cricket of the summer: another couple of notches cranked up on the speedometer thanks to the adrenalin surge, some steely invective directed at the batsman and a passage of play of the sort that curdles the blood of spectators but sends it coursing through Atherton's veins.

It was stupendous pace bowling, the most hostile Atherton has encountered since Courtney Walsh worked him over in Jamaica four years ago. Just once, when he swung a mighty hook at a

bouncer and top-edged it into the open spaces, did he appear flustered. Later Hussain received the same treatment, survived — correctly, it proved — an appeal for a catch at the wicket when 23 and then saw Boucher drop a straightforward catch next ball.

Boucher beat the ground in frustration. Donald might have opted for capital punishment.

It is a tribute to Atherton that the South Africans might resent his survival above all others for, they might reason, holding the key to their success or otherwise. He defied them for all those hours in Johannesburg and made a century as England beat New Zealand in Christchurch almost 18 months ago. On that occasion they made 307 for six to win, significant in that it was the second highest fourth-innings total England have made to win a Test.

England's record at home is even more unimpressive in this respect: only once, 36 years ago, have they made more to win than the 247 asked of them now; and on only three further occasions have they even topped 200 in the last innings.

England began their final task 50 minutes before tea and, battling with a commendably positive attitude, Atherton and Mark Butcher added 40 for the first wicket. The left-hander drove four

boundaries before he was drawn into a defensive poke outside off stump by Shaun Pollock's testing line from around the wicket and Boucher took yet another catch.

To see it through to the close required guts, skill and luck but Atherton and Hussain did so, Hussain taking

his only boundaries in one over from Steve Elworthy, and Atherton opening the face to drive square with his trademark precision. The defence of both was impeccable.

That England had been able to get into a winning position was down initially to the effort of the seamers in

dismissal South Africa for 122. At the other end Dominic Cork stirred himself (or perhaps was stirred) and took four for 60, including the vital wicket of the South African captain Hansie Cronje, who followed his first-innings century with a composed 67 before he edged a loose cut to Stewart.

Earlier Stewart courted controversy when he claimed a catch down the legside to dismiss Jonty Rhodes, the ball clipping the batsman's pad rather than his bat. Everyone these days is required to take the rough with the smooth but Rhodes's response in the wake of a duff decision was exemplary. A few cards will have been marked here.

There was further controversy when Cronje, eight balls before he was out, drove loosely at a wide ball from Cork and Hussain, at point, lunged himself to his left and picked up what might have been a catch. Cronje, rightly, stood his ground and a replay proved inconclusive.

Of more concern was Hussain's gesture, while on the ground, that he thought a replay might be in order. The Australian batsman Greg Blewett will testify that Hussain does not have a great track record on this front. Besides, if he had sufficient doubt to warrant a replay, that was doubt enough.

Scoreboard

SOUTH AFRICA First Innings 374 (W J Cronje 126, S M Pollock 50, Fraser 5-60, Gough 4-116)

ENGLAND First Innings (overnight 202-4)

M R Ramprakash not out 67
D K Salisbury b Donald 23
S A Hick b Donald 6
A Flintoff c Boucher b Kallis 17
D G Cork c Boucher b Pollock 2
D Gough c Boucher b Donald 2
A R C Fraser lbw b Pollock 7
Extras (b1, b13, w1, nb13) 34

Total 127 5 overs
Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-54, 3-58, 4-202, 5-307

Reverting Donald 33-4-109-5, Pollock 25.8-12-75-2, Elworthy 22-4-41-1, Kallis 28-9-50-2, Adams 9-2-31-0

SOUTH AFRICA Second Innings (overnight 82-3)

G Kirsten lbw b Fraser 6
G J L Labrooy lbw b Gough 11
J H Kallis c Stewart b Cork 19
D J Cullinan c Ramprakash b Fraser 66
W J Cronje c Stewart b Cork 67
J N Rhodes c Stewart b Cork 2
S M Pollock c Stewart b Cork 38
T M V Boucher c Hussain b Fraser 10
S Elworthy lbw b Fraser 1
A R C Fraser not out 7
Extras (b1, lb4, w1) 6

Total (75.5 overs)
Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-116, 3-122, 4-188, 5-193, 6-208

Blewett 15-2-36-1, Adams 6-2-7-0, Kallis 4-1-5-0, Elworthy 3-0-17-0, Cronje 4-1-12-0

ENGLAND Second Innings

M A Butcher c Boucher b Pollock 22
M A Atherton not out 43
N Hussain not out 23
Extras (b1, lb10, w1, nb6) 18

Total (for 1, 45 overs)
Fall of wickets: 40

To lead: T A J Stewart, M R Ramprakash, G A Hick, A Flintoff, D G Cork, D Gough, D K Salisbury, A R C Fraser

Blewett 15-2-36-1, Adams 6-2-7-0, Kallis 4-1-5-0, Elworthy 3-0-17-0, Cronje 4-1-12-0

Overseas: M J Kitchen and S Dunne



Over to you... England's wicket-takers Cork and Fraser keep plotting

REBECCA NADEN

Big names confess in Tour's roughest ride

William Fotheringham in Grenoble on admissions of guilt by cycling's elite as scandal continues to overshadow the race

MEMBERS of the Festina cycling team yesterday followed their confessions to French police that they had used the banned blood-boosting hormone erythropoietin by explaining why — and they implied many other cyclists may be using the drug.

"Maybe the Union Cycliste Internationale should suspend more than 100

riders after the Tour," said the Swiss Armin Meier, who admitted in television on Friday that he had used the drug for two years. "I wouldn't be surprised if this started an avalanche. I don't believe there should be a general amnesty."

His team-mate Laurent Dufaux, a Tour de France stage winner in 1996, expressed his hope that their confessions to a French

police inquiry into the supply of drugs within the team officially ranked No. 1 in world cycling, would clean up the sport. "It would be a shame to put the lid back on, because this is still a custom practised in the field now."

The double Tour of Spain winner Alex Zülle, runner-up in the Tour de France in 1995, explained why he had used erythropoietin. "I had good results without doping but pressure from the sponsors forced me to jump the gun. It was a personal decision but pressure forced me to take the step."

"I regret lying and disappointing my fans but there was nothing I could do. I have made a mistake."

Dufaux said that, although he had initially denied using erythropoietin when he was questioned by French police on Thursday and Friday, "I came to the conclusion that it was useless to deny it because the evidence was enormous."

Meier has described how he spoke through a grating in his cell to Zülle, who was in the cell next door, and his fellow Swiss said he had confessed. "They treated us like animals," said Zülle.

Dufaux added: "Yes, I did take EPO to stay in shape but it was not the product that made me win races."

Dufaux, who won the Tour of Romandie stage race in June, said on one occasion his level of red blood matter, or haematocrit, fell to 40 per cent, but he boosted it to 50 per cent using erythropoietin. The

sport's governing body tests cyclists' blood thickness on a random basis, and 50 per cent is the level at which cyclists are declared "unfit to work".

Dufaux added: "I made up for my virus by taking erythropoietin but I always used it under medical control. I never abused the product. I know I face a long suspension but I hope those of us from Festina who confessed will not be made into scapegoats."



Zülle... 'pressure from sponsors forced me to take the step'

Race report and reaction, page 21

Athletics AAA Championships

Duncan Mackay in Birmingham reports on the struggle for European Championship places

Black sweats on Budapest decision

ROGER BLACK will find out this morning whether he will be given the opportunity to win a record third European Championships gold medal after finishing only fourth in the 400 metres at the Alexander Stadium last night.

The 31-year-old Team Solent runner, European champion in 1986 and 1990 who plans to retire at the end of the summer, failed to finish in the top two who are guaranteed selection for Budapest next month. He was even run out of third place in the final few metres by Solomon Wariso, who was a second quicker than he has ever done before in 44.66sec.

The winner, in 44.39, was Iwan Thomas who made the favourite Mark Richardson pay for a bad start. The Windsor runner, who beat Michael Johnson this month, had to settle for second in 44.62.

A year ago, Black was controversially left out of the World Championships after missing the trials, a decision widely criticised. Now he must hope the selectors look favourably on his season's best time, 44.71, and pick him ahead of Wariso on his reputation.

Another gold medal favourite, the triple jumper Jonathan Edwards, booked his place in Budapest by easily winning with 17.12m. Having already jumped 18.01 this summer, the world record holder was unhappy the selectors had refused to relax their rigid selection criteria that athletes must turn up here if they want to be picked.

"I am being made to jump through unnecessary hoops," he said. "The selectors should stand up and be counted and not make people compete if they are obviously in good form. I would rather have not come here. In an event like mine, where there is considerable wear and tear, allowances should be made."

Edwards is suffering an injury to his left ankle, which required regular icing during yesterday's competition, but as he has not competed in the trials since 1994 he did not want to miss them again. "I felt a little bit of pressure to compete," he admitted.

Edwards was supported by Steve Backley, who threw 84.76m to win the javelin. "I have my mind set fully on Budapest and I would rather have not competed today."

Backley will chase a record third consecutive European title in Hungary. "I'm happy with the way things are going



Reflected glory... runners make a splash on their watery way in the men's 3,000 metres steeplechase which was won yesterday by Christian Stephenson of Cardiff

JOHN GILES

and think I'll throw 90 metres at the Grand Prix meeting in Sheffield next week."

Linford Christie enjoyed the weekend in his new role as a coach. Having watched Darren Campbell and Dwain Chambers finish first and second in Saturday's 100m, he had two more champions to celebrate yesterday.

The first was Paul Gray, who won the 400m hurdles with a Welsh record of 48.81. As soon as Gray crossed the line, both Christie and Campbell ran on to the track to embrace him. "Linford's been an unbelievable help to me this year," Gray said. "His knowledge and expertise is outstanding. He tells us all to have faith in ourselves and it seems to have paid off."

An hour later Katharine Merry lifted the women's 200m title in 23.46. But it was a close-run thing as she edged Joice Maduaka, winner of the 100m on Saturday, only in the last few strides. "Linford's been there, got the T-shirt and is really helping me," said 23-year-old Merry.

Natasha Danvers won the 400m hurdles in 56.27. At 20, the Croydon runner has a big future. At the other end of the age spectrum, the 38-year-old Gowry Retchakan finished second to earn a place in Budapest.

Gray's Cardiff team-mate, Christian Stephenson, also had reason to be cheerful. He chopped a massive nine seconds from his personal best to win the 3,000m steeplechase in 8:32.76. The 24-year-old Welshman was running the event for only the third

time. But then, as a former apprentice jockey, you would expect him to be good over the jumps.

But his European Championship ambitions could come a cropper. He must run a qualifying time of 8:27 but is unable to get into an international race to help him achieve it.

Another with a similar problem is the 800m runner Jason Lobo. He came out on top in a blanket finish where only 0.06 covered the first three. But the winning time of 1:49.68 was nearly three seconds outside the European qualifying standard.

The Blackburn policeman is upset that Performance Athlete Services, the Lottery-funded company set up to help Britain's elite athletes, has not done more to help him.

"This PAF, or whatever they are called now, are meant to be better than the British Athletic Federation," he said.

"They have done nothing for me. I've been phoning them up twice a week every

week for six weeks telling them I'm in shape to run 1:46 but they won't get me races. I know I can run fast, but when I do it will be in spite of them, not because of them."

● Ian Mackie claims he will "definitely" run in the Commonwealth Games despite his hamstring injury. The Scottish sprinter said he would need three weeks' rest after a scan on damaged scar tissue in the next few days before he can continue to prepare for the Games in Malaysia in September.

The affairs of the BAF, which went into administration with debts of almost £2 million in October, remain in limbo until Modahl's claim is dealt with as the administrators currently trying to untangle the mess cannot pay the federation's creditors until a settlement is reached.

If Tony Morton-Hopner, Modahl's solicitor, agrees a figure with the administrators at a meeting today the deal will be presented to the creditors committee on Wednesday for their approval.

The desire to end the affair is tempered by the fact that Modahl wants to bring the people she blames for her ordeal to public account. "We want it to come to an end, but we also want to see the people who were responsible for all the pain and anguish we have suffered face up to their responsibilities," said Vicente Modahl, her husband and coach.

"People such as Peter Radford, the former chief executive of the BAF, should be made to pay."

Modahl has asked Morton-Hopner not to tell her of the result of his meeting with the administrators until after she has raced in Paris on Wednesday evening. She wants to concentrate on achieving the European Championships qualifying standard of 2min 15sec to ensure her inclusion in the team travelling to Budapest next month.

But Modahl comfortably achieved the time needed for Commonwealth selection by beating Tanya Blake on Saturday in a time of 2:02.73 in a time trial race. "We really battled it out," said Modahl. "It was quite a physical race as well. There were a lot of elbows, a lot of pushing and a lot of jostling, but I am pleased to win."

Walker throws up prospect of fresh heroics

Stephen Bierley finds a dearth of class acts and a public that is long past caring

THE Alexander Stadium looked no different yesterday than it has for the past decade or so: a decent crowd, as enthusiastic as ever, the immaculate blazers, white trousers and skirts of the officials; and a plethora of straining legs and hyper-ventilating lungs.

It seemed inconceivable that the sport's domestic governing body had so spectacularly gone bust last year. Yet the harsh truth is that British athletics is clinging to the wreckage, with the brave (some would say barmy) David Moorcroft attempting desperately to resurrect matters in the name of reasonableness. Some chance.

The golden days of the 1993 World Champion-

ships in Seville, and the 2000 Sydney Olympics, impinge their harsh realities. Globally Jackson, now 31, remains a contender in the high hurdles while Jonathan Edwards, 32, a gold medal winner at the 1995 World Championships in Gothenburg and an Olympic silver medalist in 1996, has recently jumped 18 metres for the first time since his high-flying world record Swedish summer.

Add the names of the heptathlete Denise Lewis, the triple jumper Ashia Hansen (currently injured) plus the javelin thrower Steve Backley and it is clear the well of talent has not irrevocably dried up. But, with the possible exception of Jackson, none of these athletes compete in events that the public takes to its heart, let alone those who try to sell the sport in Britain.

True, the juices were flowing last year when our clutch of 400m men were lauded prior to the World Championships in Athens, but their golden world-class patina was tarnished when not one managed to finish in the first three. "You'll miss me when

I've gone," intoned Linford ad infinitum before his retirement last year. This was because he was a champion in an event that everyone could relate to, no matter that a run for a bus was beyond the majority who thrilled to his power.

British athletics prays for a world-class sprinter or middle-distance runner — prays with a fanatical zeal that now sees runners of quite modest ability suddenly raised on plinths of fantasy that bear no relation to their actual talents.

Poor Mark Sesay was last year hailed as the next Seb Coe — himself watching from the stands yesterday — and has since limped into the following curtains of news past. He was not the first; he will not be the last. The turnover in athletics is immense and the drop-out rate frightening.

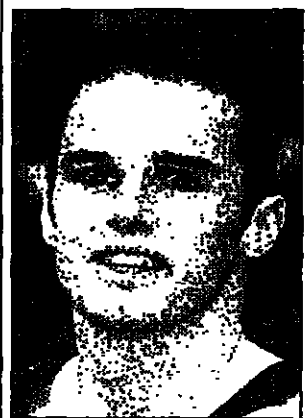
Small wonder that Scotland's Dougie Walker, pre-

capitiously thrust into the headlines this year after winning the European Cup 200m, is not prepared to enter the hyperbole game. Apart from his quickish times Walker's main claim to fame as a sprinter is that he is white in a discipline dominated by black men.

The 23-year-old revealed his stomach as the 200m final yesterday, which he won in a personal best time of 20.35sec.

There will inevitably be much talk of a European gold in Budapest next month, but comparisons with Allan Wells, the 1980 Olympic champion, let alone Christie, are fatuous. The cupboard remains ominously bare.

Walker... large shoes to fill



Walker... large shoes to fill



Defining moment... Pieter Rossouw gets the try that sealed South Africa's win

Rugby Union

Tri-Nations Cup: New Zealand 3 South Africa 13

Rugged Springboks issue global warning

Ian Mallin

AT the end of a week in which international politics have once more obfuscated rugby came a further reminder that the game's real power base is on the other side of the globe.

In the 50th Test between rugby's two heavyweights in Wellington, New Zealand and South Africa once more looked worlds apart. But like their toiling cricketers, South Africa were on the back foot for much of a compelling game.

As in the last World Cup final the Springboks' victory was built around their fierce offensive tackling. One moment epitomised the game. With the seconds ticking away Christian Cullen set off on a run deep within All Black territory. But the full-back was engulfed by a tackle by the South African flanker Andrew Aitken. And every time Jonah Lomu was launched on similarly danger-

ous touchline runs, green limpet-like tacklers attached to his bulky frame.

South Africa lead the Tri-Nations after their 12th successive Test victory. Last year the All Blacks had a dozen straight wins before their epic draw with England at Twickenham and looked the best side in the world.

Now with those lotuses Sean Fitzpatrick, Zinzan Brooke and Frank Bunce consigned to history, they look vulnerable. A third successive defeat against Australia in Christchurch next weekend would put their coach John Hart and new captain Taine Randell under enormous pressure from a disgruntled public.

Graham Henry, the New Zealand A coach currently being courted by Wales, may think twice about burning his boats as he would step naturally into Hart's shoes should New Zealand's indifferent form continue.

The All Blacks played exhilarating 15-man rugby last

year, epitomised by the counter-attacking running of Cullen. But if another moment summed up this game and their current safety-first approach it was when Cullen caught his first ball in the opening moments and chose to find touch.

The All Blacks had much the better of the forward exchanges but their lack of mid-field creativity is a real worry. Carlos Spencer, controversially preferred to Andrew Mehrtens at fly-half, had a wretched time, missing

five kicks at goal in Wellington's capricious winds. Spencer's game began to unravel alarmingly as he failed to find touch and his usual ability to move the ball completely deserted him. Mehrtens replaced him eight minutes after half-time and 12 minutes later kicked an equalising penalty. But it was to be New Zealand's only score.

Ten minutes from time the Springboks scored a try of great skill and simplicity. From a scrum close to the All Blacks' 22, Henry Honiball

popped the ball into the hands of Pieter Rossouw, who had wrongfooted the New Zealand defence, and he burst through unopposed to the line.

South Africa New Zealand's Penalties
Mehrtens, South Africa's Tri-Nations
Montgomery (2)
New Zealand's Cullen; Wilson, Meyerhoffer (McLeod, 65min, Lillo, Lomo, Spencer (Mehrtens, 48), Marshall (50), 53; Brown, Oliver, Jones, Jones, 58; Jones (Maka, 68), Kruft, Randell (60).

South Africa's Montgomery; Tordella, Strydom (Smith, 44), Muller, Rossouw; Dallon, Kengene (Le Roux, 52), Andrew (54min), 57; Otto, Aitken, Venter, Teichmann (25).

Referee: E. Morrison (England)

France's leading clubs join European Cup exodus

THE professional era continued to stumble from crisis to crisis as the troubled European Cup was thrown into further disarray yesterday by reports that nine top French clubs are to follow the English line and withdraw.

Stade Français, Bourgoin, Bègles-Bordeaux, Pau, Narbonne, Castres, Perpignan, Brive and Toulon. They are also at loggerheads with the French Rugby Federation over plans for the national championship, which is set to feature 24 teams instead of 18.

Rene Bouscatel, the Toulon president, said they hoped to take part in a new event in company with the leading English clubs. "We want a European competition organised by the federation," he said, "with the commercial aspects left to the clubs."

Modahl near to leaving misery behind

Duncan Mackay in Birmingham

DIANE MODAHL's four-year nightmare could be nearing its conclusion. Having qualified to return to the Commonwealth Games by winning the 800 metres on Saturday, she hopes that her solicitor will today reach a financial settlement with the bankrupt British Athletic Federation for compensation for her 1994 doping case ordeal.

Modahl was denied the opportunity of defending her 800m title at the last Games after being sent home from Victoria in Canada and subsequently banned for four years after "failing" a drugs test undertaken in Portugal. Her urine sample had shown a level of testosterone greater than that discovered when Ben Johnson tested positive.

The 32-year-old Sale runner maintained her innocence throughout a lengthy appeals procedure and was eventually cleared in time to run at the Atlanta Olympics. Having had to sell the family home in Manchester to fund the legal battle, Modahl is now suing the BAF for £200,000.

"The only way to put an end to this sorry tale will be for the BAF to admit their fault in this case and pay us compensation," Modahl said. "I've forgotten what it's like to be happy. Running now isn't as easy as it should be for me. An apology from the BAF is more important to me than a Commonwealth medal."

The affairs of the BAF, which went into administration with debts of almost £2 million in October, remain in limbo until Modahl's claim is dealt with as the administrators currently trying to untangle the mess cannot pay the federation's creditors until a settlement is reached.

If Tony Morton-Hopner, Modahl's solicitor, agrees a figure with the administrators at a meeting today the deal will be presented to the creditors committee on Wednesday for their approval.

The desire to end the affair is tempered by the fact that Modahl wants to bring the people she blames for her ordeal to public account. "We want it to come to an end, but we also want to see the people who were responsible for all the pain and anguish we have suffered face up to their responsibilities," said Vicente Modahl, her husband and coach.

"People such as Peter Radford, the former chief executive of the BAF, should be made to pay."

Modahl has asked Morton-Hopner not to tell her of the result of his meeting with the administrators until after she has raced in Paris on Wednesday evening. She wants to concentrate on achieving the European Championships qualifying standard of 2min 15sec to ensure her inclusion in the team travelling to Budapest next month.

But Modahl comfortably achieved the time needed for Commonwealth selection by beating Tanya Blake on Saturday in a time of 2:02.73 in a time trial race. "We really battled it out," said Modahl. "It was quite a physical race as well. There were a lot of elbows, a lot of pushing and a lot of jostling, but I am pleased to win."

The Guardian Monday July 27 1998

Motor Racing
Austrian Grand Prix

McLarens double up despite Ferrari double-teaming

Alan Henry in Spielberg sees Hakkinen and Coulthard back in the ascendancy

MIKA HAKKINEN put the brakes on Michael Schumacher's world championship ambitions here yesterday as the McLaren-Mercedes team returned en masse to the winner's rostrum for the first time since Monaco two months ago.

It was the Finn's sixth Formula One victory, a success made doubly sweet for McLaren by the Scot David Coulthard recovering strongly to take second place after a first-lap accident which had again threatened to put paid to his chances.

With 10 rounds now completed and six to go, seven, if rumours of an additional race at Spain's Jerez circuit in October prove true — Hakkinen now leads Schumacher by eight points.

Having qualified a frustrated 14th, Coulthard was badly squeezed in a traffic jam at the second corner and was pitched into a spin by Pedro Diniz's out-of-control Arrows. As if to add insult to injury, as Coulthard sat broadside in the middle of the circuit, waiting to resume, his car's nose cone was shredded by the other Arrows as Mika Salo enacted a spin-turn in front of him.

That forced the McLaren driver into the pits at the end of the opening lap, from where he resumed 19th in the queue behind the safety car, which had been deployed while several cars were cleared from the track at the first and second corners.

"A car stalled on the grid, so I had to lift off and lost some places," said Coulthard. "At the start I was taking the attitude that I would just try to keep out of trouble and I

had that same attitude at the second corner. As I went into the corner I looked in the mirror and saw a car [Jarno Trulli's] coming down the outside, so I moved right to give him room, only for Diniz to come up the inside and spin me round. Then I was hit by Salo when he did a 'doughnut' [spin turn] in front of me, so I had to come into the pits for a new front wing, although the safety car meant that I did not lose as

The Finn kept his head and Schumacher eventually made the key driving error

much time as I might have done. Coulthard had started the weekend with high hopes after the disappointment of his British Grand Prix outing, when he spun out while running second in torrential rain. The sunny and hot conditions which prevailed at the A-1 Ring on Friday were much more to his taste and he set fastest time ahead of Giancarlo Fisichella's Benetton and Hakkinen, only to have a wet qualifying session and a series of unlucky breaks consign him to a distant place on the grid.

Hakkinen's world championship points advantage would have been even greater had Eddie Irvine's Ferrari F300 not developed mysteri-

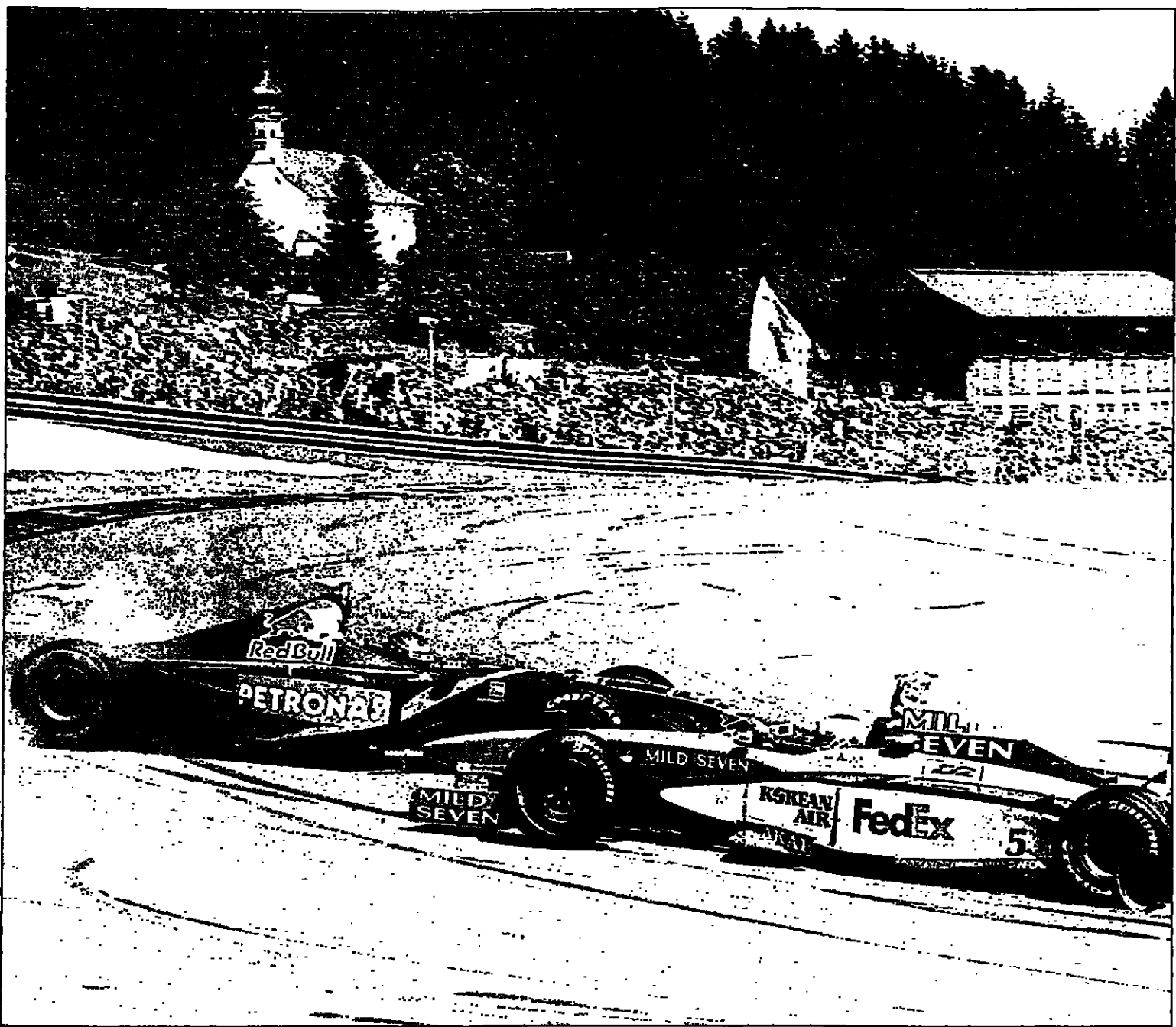
ous "braking problems" in the closing stages of the race, allowing Michael Schumacher to claim third place with only three of the race's 71 laps remaining.

That explanation from Ferrari's sporting director Jean Todt raised more than a passing grin from the opposition, particularly as Irvine seemed to be afflicted by these problems for only a handful of laps before Schumacher caught him: once the German was in third place Irvine resumed lapping competitively.

It is widely believed that Irvine's contract requires him to defer to Schumacher at all times but there is no way the Ferrari team can admit this in public without falling foul of the same disapproval from the sport's governing body which was directed towards McLaren when Coulthard waved Hakkinen past to win the first race of the season in Melbourne.

The opening stages of the race saw a close four-car battle between Hakkinen and Schumacher, the Ferrari clearly quicker than the McLaren ahead of it due to running a lighter fuel load with the intention of stopping twice to Hakkinen's benefit. However, the Finn kept his head and Schumacher eventually made the key driving error when he ran off the track on lap 17, also wrecking his nose section and ripping off an aerodynamic reflector.

He stopped for repairs before taking up the chase in 16th place, climbing back through to third with a little help from his team-mate. Schumacher's progress was aided immeasurably when Fisichella's Benetton and Jean Alesi's Sauber, which had qualified first and second, collided at the same corner which had so nearly claimed Coulthard.



Over and out... Jean Alesi, left, and Giancarlo Fisichella, the top two qualifiers, spin out of the race on lap 22 yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: STEVE ETHERINGTON

Jordan wait to enter promised land

James Mitchell finds an embattled team on a diet of dreams rather than results, even though Ralf Schumacher scores again

MICHAEL Schumacher had words with his younger brother after the race. On other days the Ferrari maestro might have told half off for blocking him for six laps as he sought to scramble back to the race leaders after an untimely mistake. Yesterday Michael wanted to tell little brother that he had enjoyed their battle over the fourth place and to congratulate him on his second consecutive points finish.

The younger Schumacher's fifth place may yet help him to salvage something decent from what has been a miserable season overall. This was one of the Jordan man's best drives so far and it underlined why the team plan to keep him on board in 1999 despite a year in which he has been off the road too many times.

Jordan rate Ralf's speed highly and are loath to see another team benefit once he has learned how to apply it on every lap instead of just the ones on which he stays on the track.

The 23-year-old surprised all of Formula One at the British Grand Prix two weeks ago by finishing sixth in a wet race despite being dumped to the back of the grid because of a safety infringement. Most experts had expected to see him in a gravel trap after a handful of laps.

But the fighting spirit he showed then and yesterday during the six laps in which he kept back his brother, the most aggressive and intimidating driver in Formula One, have provided

Jordan with their only points of the season. It was a timely achievement, too, at the height of the driver-transfer "silly season" in which everyone is looking around to see where they can get a better deal for the following year. Both Schumacher and his team-mate Damon Hill are likely to be retained next season, but Hill's less convincing race was not the best news for him as he tries to ensure that he keeps his \$5 million salary in 1999.

Although the Englishman drove well to finish seventh after qualifying in a lowly 15th place, he made no obvious attempt to hold his position when Michael Schumacher came up behind him on lap 29. The apparent lack of gumption will probably not have gone down well, for he and the team are not having an easy time.

There have been cross words this weekend, and Jordan personnel were not pleased with Hill's critical comments in the Sunday newspapers after his poor qualifying position, which he blamed on being out on the track at the wrong time and being called in at the end of the session too early. Hill yesterday claimed his poor performance was "overdone" by journalists. "I've tried to make it clear that I've not tried to avoid any responsibility for qualifying," he said.

"It's work as a team, and we did not do a good job of qualifying in those conditions, both for Ralf [who started ninth] and me. We may very well

have done much better in the race if we had qualified better."

Jordan set themselves the objective of a first grand prix win this season, but have little hope of achieving it. However, while their 1998 car was poor at the start of the season, they have moved forward. Hill






ought eventually to score points but his performances so far have not helped in his attempts to stay on next year on his terms.

The team's chief Eddie Jordan is nothing if not shrewd with money and he is trying to screw down the retainers of both his drivers next season. Hill is not in a particularly strong position. The team are beginning to question his motivation when events are not running his way, as

well as his ability to give them the technical direction they were expecting from a former Williams man with a good reputation as a test driver.

In the end, it is unlikely to prevent him keeping his drive, for he is still at the top of the list of favoured drivers drawn up by their Benson & Hedges sponsors. But Hill's options for next season are limited and he may well have to take a severe pay cut.

Full results from Spielberg

	1	Mika Hakkinen (Finland)	McLaren-Mercedes	Time: 1:30.443	Average speed: 225.722 mph
	2	David Coulthard (Scotland)	McLaren-Mercedes	5.229 sec behind	
	3	Michael Schumacher (Germany)	Ferrari	1:30.193	
	4	Eddie Irvine (Britain)	Ferrari	43.877	
	5	Ralf Schumacher (Germany)	Ferrari	50.665	
	6	Jacques Villeneuve (Canada)	Williams	53.202	
Other finishers					
7 Damon Hill (GB) - 58.30s; 8 Johnny Herbert (GB) - 58.30s; 9 Alexander Wurz (Austria) - 58.30s; 10 Jarno Trulli (Italy) - 58.30s; 11 Shinya Monishi (Japan) - 58.30s; 12 Ricardo Rosset (Brazil) - 58.30s					
Did not finish/not classified					
13 Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) - 58.30s; 14 Esteban Tuero (Spain) - 58.30s; 15 Gianfranco Fisichella (Italy) - 58.30s; 16 Jean Alesi (France) - 58.30s; 17 Heinz-Harald Frentzen (Germany) - 58.30s; 18 Rubens Barrichello (Brazil) - 58.30s; 19 Pedro Diniz (Brazil) - 58.30s; 20 Mika Salo (Finland) - 58.30s; 21 Olivier Panis (France) - 58.30s; 22 Tommi Meekum (Finland) - 58.30s					
Fastest lap					
Coulthard 1:12.878 (132.276 mph)					
Drivers' championship					
1 Mika Hakkinen (20); 2 Michael Schumacher (19); 3 David Coulthard (10); 4 Eddie Irvine (4); 5 Ralf Schumacher (4); 6 Jacques Villeneuve (3); 7 Damon Hill (2); 8 Johnny Herbert (2); 9 Jarno Trulli (1); 10 Shinya Monishi (1); 11 Ricardo Rosset (1); 12 Jos Verstappen (1); 13 Esteban Tuero (1); 14 Gianfranco Fisichella (1); 15 Jean Alesi (1); 16 Heinz-Harald Frentzen (1); 17 Rubens Barrichello (1); 18 Pedro Diniz (1); 19 Mika Salo (1); 20 Olivier Panis (1); 21 Tommi Meekum (1)					
Constructors' championship					
1 McLaren-Mercedes (30); 2 Ferrari (23); 3 Williams (13); 4 Benetton (10); 5 Sauber (4); 6 Jordan (3); 7 Arrows (2); 8 Stewart (1); 9 British American Racing (1); 10 Minardi (1); 11 Prost (1); 12 Sauber (1)					

Rallying

Burns and McRae battle it out in wake of Toyotas

David Williams in Auckland

RICHARD BURNS was unflinching, his Mitsubishi unblemished and, after the second leg of the Rally of New Zealand, he was third overall and tantalisingly close to a personal target — beating Colin McRae in a straight fight for the first time.

McRae's Subaru bore the scars of an increasingly desperate attempt to stay on terms in a rally that he has routinely dominated in the past. All the damage was superficial — even after hitting a fence post on the afternoon's penultimate stage — but McRae found that the latest changes to the car had conspicuously failed to deliver the anticipated results.

While his progress has been as spectacular as ever, even his co-driver Nicky Grist felt McRae was trying a little too hard to make up for the car's deficiencies, a view borne out by a fifth-gear spin that cost 15sec.

Given the foul conditions, with incessant rain and submerged main roads, it was hardly surprising that two special stages were cancelled, but Burns beat McRae on six of the eight stages north of here to amass a comforting, if slender, lead of 9.5sec over his fellow Briton.

Burns was a little disappointed nevertheless. "It was what I wanted but I was hoping to make more of an impression on the Toyotas," he said.

Neither he nor McRae seemed to have an answer to the Japanese cars driven by the Frenchman Didier Auriol and Carlos Sainz of Spain. They hoped that drier conditions and longer stages later would make a difference but Auriol, who led Sainz by half a minute, looked unstoppable. In contrast the world champion Tommi Makinen has been a shadow of his usual self, consumed by the need not to crash in New Zealand for the fourth year running. He was sixth with a day to go, entertaining hopes of catching McRae and Burns and overhauling his fellow Finn Juha Kankkunen.

Sailing

Germany in front

Bob Fisher in Cowes

GERMAN and Dutch teams dominate the Commodore's Cup after the Channel Race, the long offshore race of the series which finished on Saturday. Germany Red leads Netherlands Green by 11 points with three inshore races and the short offshore to come. Netherlands Red is another two points away in third and there are 10 more points to Germany Green, who are two clear of England Red.

The 150-mile offshore race encountered mainly light winds with huge patches of calm and the added hazard of strong tidal currents. Two smaller boats which failed to negotiate the tidal "gates" at the right time finished 20 hours behind the leaders, early yesterday morning. Once again Thomas Jungbluth's Segnana won the mid-sized division for Germany Red, while Koert Jansen's Cisme was the best-

placed small boat for Netherlands Green. Both Tony Cox's Prospect of Whitby and Tony de Mulder's Victor V scored well for England Red, placing third in the small and big-boat divisions respectively, but Peter Rutter's Quokka suffered from an indifferent start from which she never recovered and finished fifth. Prospect of Whitby won the Channel Cup for boats also rated under Channel Bandicap.

On Lake Constance near Zurich, Britain's Chris Law was beaten 3-1 in the final of the Match Racing Grand Prix by Australia's Neville Wittey. Racing took place in an inner harbour with 10 industrial wind machines providing the power. Law and his Nautica team are currently ranked No. 2 in the world.

Italy's Giovanni Soldini is expected to finish first today in the Atlantic Alone race, which started from Palmouth three weeks ago heading for Charleston, South Carolina.

Tennis

Kuerten parts with victory car and grandmother has to walk

BRASIL'S Gustavo Kuerten beat the Slovakian Karol Kucera in a tight heat on clay yesterday to claim the Mercedes Cup in Stuttgart. The 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 win secured his first title since the 1997 French Open. It was the first time Kuerten had faced the 18th-ranked Kucera, who earlier denied Chile's Marcelo Rios a place in the final.

The 21-year-old, ranked 26th in the world, pocketed the tournament's \$96,000 prize but gave his 16-year-old Mercedes limousine to his coach Larry Passos, much to the chagrin of his grandmother Olga who had jumped into the passenger seat after the match.

"I know that my mother and grandmother would have liked the car but I think I'm going to give it to Larry," Kuerten said.

The world No. 1 Martina Hingis gave Switzerland a winning 3-0 lead over the defending champions France with a three-set win over Amelie Mauresmo in the Fed Cup semi-finals. Hingis's hard-fought 6-7, 6-4, 6-2 victory carried Switzerland to their first final in this tournament, in which they will host the United States or Spain on September 19.

Nicole Pratt and Jelena Dokic won their reverse singles matches yesterday to give Australia a 5-0 victory over Argentina in their world group two regional qualifying play-off tie. Pratt, Australia's top-ranked player, defeated Mariana Diaz-Oliva 7-6, 6-1 and the 15-year-old Dokic, in her first Fed Cup tie, had a convincing 6-2, 6-1 victory over Laura Montalvo.

Sport in brief

Hockey

England's men were beaten 2-2 by South Africa in Pretoria yesterday to lose their Five-Test series 2-1, writes *Pat Rowley*. England drew level twice through Howard Hoskin and James Wallis but succumbed to goals from Mike Cullen, Murray Anderson and Craig Fulton.

Tina Cullen, the Hightown forward, confirmed her recovery from the fractured jaw that kept her out of England's World Cup team by scoring three times in unofficial internationals against Scotland at Milton Keynes over the weekend. She scored England's second goal in a 4-4 draw on Saturday and found the net twice in yesterday's 4-2 victory.

Triathlon
Britain's Simon Lessing, who needed only to stay in touch with the leaders in the swim and the cycle ride, duly did so before striding away from the field in the 10km run to win the Goodwill Games event in New York's Central Park yesterday. Lessing, second out of the water and among the top three cyclists, beat the Australian Craig Walton by nine seconds on the final run.

Ice Hockey

Peterborough Pirates of the British National League have re-signed the Canadian forward Randy Smith, writes *Vic Batchelder*. The Pirates were his first team when he arrived in Britain four years ago, but after one season in which he scored 92 goals in 52 games he moved on to the Superleague sides Cardiff and Newcastle. Smith, 33, will be double up as assistant coach at Peterborough.

Rugby League
St George defied rain and determined rivals to come from behind and beat Sydney City 22-21 in Australia's National League yesterday. Nathan Blacklock led the way for the seventh-placed St George with two tries and Anthony Mundine and Jeff Hardy also crossed the line. Newcastle Knights stay top of the table with 31 points despite being beaten 32-18 by Melbourne Storm.

Boxing
Japan's Satoshi Iida took command in the later rounds to beat his Nicaraguan challenger Jurio Gamboa on points to retain his WBA super-flyweight title in Nagoya. All three judges scored the fight 115-113 in the champion's favour.

The Government Information and Communication Service (GICS) provides professional expertise for a range of Government organisations. Media professionals, press officers, publicity staff, journalists and print buyers work together in specialist posts to communicate how Government policy affects our lives.

The following vacancies demonstrate some of the diversity of our work.



TV Producers

Based London
Salary £16,089 - £27,922

The TV and Radio Section of the Information Department at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is responsible for providing a wide variety of TV, video and multi-media output that aims to promote Britain to the global audience outside the UK.

We now have opportunities for two TV Producers to join the Section based at our offices in central London.

One post will be primarily concerned with assisting foreign broadcasters and production companies making audio visual products about Britain to reflect in their output a positive view of Britain. This will include providing advice on locations, background information, arranging interviews and logistical information.

The second post will primarily be as a project manager working with freelance writers, directors, researchers, production companies and facility houses to produce videos and other multi-media products to promote Britain overseas. Working with a senior producer, this will involve budgeting, script editing, setting up shoots and edits, approval of various production stages, supervising distribution and ensuring correct archiving of both finished product and rushes.

For both posts there will be considerable on-the-job training, although you will need to have a positive and out-going personality, and sufficient broadcasting or journalistic experience to communicate with professionals as an equal. In addition, a knowledge and demonstrable interest in international current affairs, should be complemented by a familiarity with, and an inquisitive attitude to, information technology, primarily in the field of multi-media. You should also have a well-developed sense of diplomacy - particularly to those of other cultures - that is ideally supported by a second language. Further career development will be greatly enhanced by creative writing skills. Ref: 98/07/FCO

The GICS is an equal opportunities employer.



Sub Editor - RAF News

Based at RAF
Innsworth, Gloucester
Salary £14,600 - £21,500

The Ministry of Defence currently has a vacancy for a Sub Editor to work on RAF News, the fortnightly tabloid newspaper which brings Royal Air Force news, related events and developments to 60,000 readers, comprising serving and retired RAF staff and the general public.

We are looking for a versatile professional with newspaper experience to play a pivotal role in the production of the newspaper, including laying out pages, selecting pictures, editing text and occasionally turning your hand to reporting and feature writing. There will also be the need to travel in the UK and overseas occasionally.

You must be a qualified journalist with experience of sub-editing and DTP page layout using QuarkXpress. Accuracy, flexibility and the ability to work well as part of a team are all essential attributes, as is a clean driving licence. An interest in the RAF as well as defence and aviation issues would also be useful. Ref: 98/07/MOD

These posts are graded at Information Officer level. In addition to the details outlined above, you will probably hold a degree or relevant qualification to degree standard, have at least two years' relevant experience and strong communication skills. Applicants without a degree will want to demonstrate their considerable range of experience in their application form.

Starting salaries (as shown in the posts advertised here) depend on relevant professional experience, and are supported by 25-30 days' holiday and non-contributory pension scheme.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 17 August 1998) please write - on a postcard only - to the GICS Development Centre, Room 202, Cabinet Office (OPS), Ashley House, 2 Monck Street, London SW1P 2BQ. Please quote the reference of the post for which you are applying.



OPERATIONS - PUBLISHING SERVICES RIGHTS DEPARTMENT

Contracts Executive

Are you an experienced rights professional? Do you negotiate contracts for artists, film footage, music or other intellectual property? The Open University Rights Department is responsible for issuing all contracts for the use of people and third party material for Open University TV, Radio, Audio and Video programmes. We need a new Contracts Executive to assess fees, negotiate and issue contracts for material used in the programmes produced by the BBC/OU Production Centre and in the University in Milton Keynes.

We require someone with a high level of motivation, with negotiating experience, who can exercise judgement about fee levels, who is comfortable in making decisions under pressure but who also has an eye for detail and is willing to participate actively in the advisory role of the Department.

You will have good negotiating skills, be PC literate, and have previous contracts experience in the broadcasting, publishing, media or multimedia industries. Knowledge of UK copyright law and supervisory or managerial experience would be an advantage.

Appointment will be made on the Academic Related Grade 2 scale £17,958 - £23,241 p.a. depending on qualifications and experience.

For further information about the post contact Madeleine Gilbert on Milton Keynes (01908) 653511.

Application forms, further particulars and access details for disabled applicants can be obtained from the Publishing Services General Office, The Open University, Watna Road, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA or telephone Milton Keynes (01908) 653277 or (01908) 858301. After hours there is a 24 hour answering service on (01908) 654345.

The University aims to serve the whole community and it particularly welcomes applications for rights posts from suitably qualified and experienced people with disabilities or who are members of ethnic minorities.

Closing date for applications: 17 August 1998.

KNOWLEDGE MEDIA INSTITUTE

Assistant Graphic Designer

(Temporary 1 year post, initially)

Applications are invited for an Assistant Graphic Designer post to work in the Open University's Knowledge Media Institute. The Knowledge Media Institute is an interdisciplinary research institute housing researchers, technologists and designers who are exploring the interconnections among these complementary perspectives on knowledge media: social, cognitive and engineering. Due to this continued success and increased design demands, we are now looking to expand our existing design team.

We seek an enthusiastic and creative artist with the confidence to take design briefs with tight deadlines from concept to completion in both electronic and printed material. Reporting to the senior designer, you would be expected to work equally well on projects that require you to work individually or as part of a small team.

Your experience as a designer will have brought you significant experience with Photoshop, Illustrator and Quark Express. Knowledge of web design constraints and pre-press issues would be a significant advantage.

Salary will be on the Academic Related staff scale £15,462 - £17,266 p.a. depending on qualifications and experience.

Please write including covering letter, application form or CV and printed/electronic examples of your work to Mr Anthony Sandoz at the Knowledge Media Institute. Enquiries can be directed to Mr Sandoz on telephone Milton Keynes (01908) 655772, e-mail: A.Sandoz@open.ac.uk

Closing date for applications: 21st August 1998.

Disabled applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape. Hearing impaired persons may make enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 654901 (Minicom answerphone).

Equal Opportunity is University Policy.

<http://www.open.ac.uk/personnel/amp/pp.htm>



Can you help us communicate?

The RSPB is the largest wildlife conservation charity in Europe with over a million members and an influential role in conserving wild birds and the environment. As part of its campaigning the RSPB generates a huge amount of information and marketing material including fliers, magazines, posters, videos, adverts and exhibitions.

Account Manager

£18,000 - £24,000

As our Account Manager, you'll have a hand in all our communications to ensure that they deliver on their objectives cost-effectively. We'll be looking to you to ensure that every piece of work has a crystal clear brief and schedule. You will also advise RSPB staff on the range of suitable media to meet their communications needs and be an ambassador for the expertise of the RSPB's Communications Services Department and our corporate style. So this is an influential and unusually broad role with considerable professional challenge.

To take it you will be an exceptionally clear thinker, as comfortable with organising large numbers of projects, as you are with negotiating with colleagues. A background in sales, marketing, communications or PR is essential with around eight years' experience. Ideally to include some account handling.

Project Editor

£14,000 - £19,000

We are looking for creative highly organised editors with first-class team skills. You'll be as happy with writing your own compelling copy as you are with editing other people's words into shape and you'll be an excellent proof reader into the bargain. Your challenge will be to help the RSPB deliver maximum message with minimum words. Ideally you will have around five years editing and writing experience, and a qualification in journalism or experience of commercial copy writing would be an advantage.

Please write with your CV to the Personnel Department, RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds, SG19 2DL, stating which position you are interested in. For an information pack, telephone Val Herbert on 01767 680551. Closing date for applications is Thursday 8th August. Successful applicants will be notified by 10th August for interviews on 12th or 14th August.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS
Registered Charity Number 207876



Meet Michelle Wadhams

On Tuesday (14th July) Michelle came to see the Graduate Recruitment Company. She thought she might be interested in sales 'Perhaps Media' Michelle said. After her group assessment 'really helpful and fun, and taught me about sales' she

consultants at the GRC decided that Michelle was rather good (lively and focused) and contacted 6 clients immediately whose vacancies they thought she would suit (with over 7,500 companies on our database it's not that surprising). After extensive face-to-face interview briefings Michelle had two second interviews within two days. By Thursday 16th, Michelle had accepted a job with Haymarket Publishing, an excellent company known for their great magazines, excellent training and prospects. Michelle is NOT unusual. Last week she joined Vandra, Justin, Andy, Sanjay, Hannah, Marcello, James, Rachel and Louise, all of whom accepted offers in recruitment, media, FMCG or IT within a week.

To join in the success, please call one of our consultants on 0171 925 2225. Or see our website at: <http://www.graduate-recruitment.co.uk>



Iriseoirí Físe - Nuacht Teilifís na Gaeilge

Tá seirbhís nuachtá Teilifís na Gaeilge (an staisiún náisiúnta teilifíse Gaeilge) ar an bhfód le dhá bhliain anois. Tá ardmheas ar Nuacht Teilifís na Gaeilge mar sheirbhís bhríomhar nuachtá náisiúnta agus réigiúnach. Tá sí á soláthar ag RTÉ.

Tá an seirbhís lonnaithe i gceanncheathrú Teilifís na Gaeilge i mBaile na hAbhann i gConamara agus tá sí ar cheann de na seomraí nuachtá is nua-aimseartha ar domhan ó thaobh na teicneolaíochta de. Tá fóintais anois do Iriseoirí Físe i seomra nuachtá gnóthach Teilifís na Gaeilge.

Béidh Gaeilge labhartha agus scríofa de fhor-ardchaighdeán ag na hiarthóirí a roghnófar. Béidh breithiúnas maith iriseoireachta acu (agus taithí cé nach bunriachtanas é) maraon le cumas ríomhaireachta.

Ba cheart go mbeadh tuiscint leathan acu ar nuacht náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta, bheith in ann déileáil leis an mbróir a bhaineann le spriocamanna agus bheith in ann gníomhú mar imreoirí fóinne.

Béidh na postanna atá i gceist á dtairiscint ar bhonn chonradh dhá bhliana.

Is deis dóshlánach é seo do dhaoine atá sásta caighdeán arda a bhaint amach i seomra nuachtá spreagúil.

Cuirfear oiliúint ar fáil.

Seoltar litreacha iarratais móide C.V. mion chulig:

An Roinn Ceapachán agus Forbairt Fóinne
Radio Telefís Éireann
Balle Átha Cliath 4
Éire

An 7 Lúnasa 1998 an dáta is deireanaí a ghlacfar le hiaratais. Is fostaitheoir comhdheiseanna é Teilifís na Gaeilge.

Broadcast Journalists - Newsroom Teilifís na Gaeilge

The news service of Teilifís na Gaeilge has been in existence for two years. During that time it has built up an impressive reputation as both a national and regional news service. Based in Teilifís na Gaeilge's headquarters in Connemara the newsroom employs leading edge technology in the provision of its news service. A number of vacancies now exist for Broadcast Journalists.

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Appointments & Staff Development Department
Radio Telefís Éireann
Dublin 4
Ireland

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You will be responsible for all aspects of preparing and directing a filmed viewers report on a weekly basis. You must have previous experience of location direction and on-line editing, preferably gained on a fast turnaround magazine programme. You will need to submit (on not more than one side of A4) your views on how effective Right to Reply is at giving viewers an opportunity to comment about what they watch on television. (Previous applicants need not re-apply). Ref: AP2/G.

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You will be responsible for all aspects of the financial planning of Right to Reply. You will closely monitor all costs and manage programme budgets, preparing cost reports and analysis, administering expenses and reporting to the editor of Right to Reply and C4 Programme Finance department. You will also schedule, negotiate and book travel, filming, studio and post production facilities. You will also be responsible for ordering and negotiating clearances of programme clips and music. You will have experience of managing a weekly, topical programme. You will need to be diplomatic, highly numerate and possess good negotiating and problem solving skills. Ref: PM/G.

To apply, please send your CV with a covering letter quoting your current salary and briefly explaining why you would like to be part of the Right to Reply team, to: The Personnel Department, Channel 4 Television, 124 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2TX. Fixed term contracts will be offered to the successful candidates, commencing from early September 1998. Please quote the appropriate reference. Closing date for applications: Wednesday 5th August 1998.



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Meet Michelle Wadhams

On Tuesday (14th July) Michelle came to see the Graduate Recruitment Company. She thought she might be interested in sales 'Perhaps Media' Michelle said. After her group assessment 'really helpful and fun, and taught me about sales' she

consultants at the GRC decided that Michelle was rather good (lively and focused) and contacted 6 clients immediately whose vacancies they thought she would suit (with over 7,500 companies on our database it's not that surprising). After extensive face-to-face interview briefings Michelle had two second interviews within two days. By Thursday 16th, Michelle had accepted a job with Haymarket Publishing, an excellent company known for their great magazines, excellent training and prospects. Michelle is NOT unusual. Last week she joined Vandra, Justin, Andy, Sanjay, Hannah, Marcello, James, Rachel and Louise, all of whom accepted offers in recruitment, media, FMCG or IT within a week.

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G/C

Just what Celtic ordered: a doctor to do as they tell him

When Jozef Venglos went to Aston Villa in 1990 he saw it as a voyage of discovery. After a year he discovered the exit. Now he has resurfaced with the Scottish champions, with warm tributes from old Villa players but a cool reception from fans. **Roy Collins** reports on a manager still apologising

THE two entrances of Dr Jozef Venglos into British football are collectors' items for those who deal in the bizarre. At Villa Park back in 1990 the chairman Doug Ellis led Venglos into a room full of journalists and asked: "Do any of you recognise this man?"

When no one responded, Ellis chuckled in delight, taking it as confirmation that he had pulled off a masterstroke, that he was the visionary who had identified the need to introduce an exotic new flavour to the traditional fare of the English game. In that sense he was right. Where he miscalculated was in believing that being 10 years ahead of his time would prove as advantageous to a manager as it was to Martin Peters.

Villa players in 1990 were not ready to exchange meat and two veg for haute cuisine. Or, in hindsight, considering they had just lost their previous manager Graham Taylor to England, turnip for subergine.

After a disastrous 12 months in which Villa narrowly escaped relegation Ellis turned to a man who is the epitome of the no-nonsense, set-your-stall-out-early, keep-your-shape approach of the English game, Ron Atkinson. The good doctor departed, it seemed for good.

Thanks to the notoriety gained from that time, there was no need for introductions when Venglos was appointed

manager of Celtic in a small, windowless room in the bowels of the stadium last week. The chairman Fergus McCann and general manager Jock Brown had eschewed the plush Celtic Park suites, perhaps mindful that, when they had announced the resignation of the former manager Wim Jansen, they had had to shout above the voices of fans drifting through the windows, calling for their heads.

About 200 fans repeated the protest last week, though the most imaginative act of dissent was a message scrawled on a wall. "Welcome Dr Pangloss," it said, fitting enough seeing that Venglos, like the eternal optimist from Voltaire's *Candide*, appears to believe that everything is for the best in the best of possible worlds.

He does not accept that his time at Villa was a failure, merely another voyage of discovery. "I had a normal time," he says. "I won manager of the month in October. At that time there were not so many players from other countries in British football. Now there are other Europeans, South Americans and Africans. The game has opened up and there is more of a reception for other ideas."

"I hope that will make it different for me this time. I have already found the players to be intelligent and responsive to my ideas. They have what is necessary in modern football; they are adaptable. From a personal point of view I could not resist the opportunity to

The foreign gaff is blown as the Scots come into their own

FOR once in a while the most accomplished footballer at work in Scotland is a Scot. Paul Lambert, the Celtic midfielder, has the pedigree as well as the talent to support the argument, having won a European Cup medal in his single season with Borussia Dortmund and added a league championship medal last May at the end of his first campaign at Parkhead.

In addition, Craig Burley was made Player of the Year by the Scottish Football Writers' Association and a third Scot, Jackie McNamara, took the accolade from his fellow professionals, the SPFA.

All this confounded recent tradition. In the previous five years all the major individual awards had gone to foreigners and, as long as Brian Laudrup and Paul Gascoigne were in good order at Ibrox, it was impossible to imagine a native wearing the unofficial mantle presently draped around Lambert's shoulders.

The success of the Celtic trio, however, cannot camouflage the underlying effect of the intake of foreign players on the Scottish game. There is widespread concern over the declining numbers of quality players being nurtured from seed.

There is also the whiff of hypocrisy in the air. The leading clubs frequently protest the need to return to the days when the Scots produced so many players of genuine distinction that the country was a regular feed for England. But as long ago as 1982 Andy Roxburgh, then the Scottish FA's director of coaching, formulated plans for academies of excellence in the manner of the Dutch and Germans and put them to the professional clubs.

The response was the kind one expects from jabbing a needle into a corpse. At a time when Walter Smith, managing Rangers, idealised the building of a complex that would help to develop native talent, he was asked if he would spend the £7 million he thought it would take on

his dream rather than buy two established players and, in the process, lose the league title. "No chance," said Smith. "It would be pointless because I would not be around to see the complex work. I would be out of a job."

When Graeme Souness began the mass conscription of alien mercenaries in 1986 — back then they were mainly English, with Terry Butcher, Chris Woods, Graham Roberts and Gary Stevens in the vanguard — nobody envisaged a day when the imports would flood in from Scandinavia, Germany, France and even Italy and South America.

The problem is that, with one or two exceptions such as Gascoigne and Laudrup, the immigrants are not the cream of foreign talent but lower class. They do, however, command top-level wages and it is on these players that the vast bulk of the clubs' income is lavished.

So the SPA itself has begun national coaching programmes that could yield lush fruits in the future. But it expects it will take 10 years to ripen.

Patrick Glenn



Way back when ...

Frank Keating on the exploits of Captain Webb: born 150 years ago, first person to swim the Channel, died at Niagara Falls

Feat first ... Captain Webb after swimming the Channel on August 25, 1875
PHOTOGRAPH: HULTON GETTY

BESIDES WG Grace 1898 also marks the 150th anniversary of the other lustrous sportsman of the Victorian age, Captain Matthew Webb, the first man to swim the English Channel, was born on January 19, 1848, six months earlier than WG, at Dawley, now part of Telford. Grace lived until 1915 but had appeared in only the first two home Tests ever played (at The Oval in 1880 and 1889) by the time Webb perished, at 35, on July 24, 1883, as he attempted to swim the rapids below Niagara Falls. Webb was the son of a

Shropshire doctor. He learned to swim in the Severn at Coalbrookdale. At 12 he enlisted on the Conway naval training ship on the Mersey, whence he joined the Rathbone line of cargo ships playing the East Indies and China trade routes. In 1874, by then a master with the Cunard line, he retired to concentrate as a professional on the new craze of endurance swimming. For starters he announced he would be the first to swim the English Channel. The world scoffed. On August 24, 1875, smeared in porpoise oil for insulation and wearing a

crimson costume of silk made by the firm that would later make Prince Ranjitsinhji's cricket shirts, Webb dived into the water off Dover's Admiralty Pier. Twenty-one hours and 45 minutes later, having covered 39 sea miles, he waded ashore at Calais, passengers and crew of the outgoing mailship *The Maid of Kent* leaning over the rails to serenade his last few strokes.

Webb logged in his diary: "Never shall I forget when the men in the mailboat struck up the tune of Rule Britannia, which they sang, or rather shouted, in a

hoarse roar: I felt a gulping sensation in my throat as the old tune, which I had heard in all parts of the world, once more struck my ears under circumstances so extraordinary. I felt now I should do it, and I did it."

He slept for 12 hours in the Hotel de Paris, then returned by boat to Dover saying "the sensation in my limbs is similar to that after the first day of the cricket season". At a well-known banquet at the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club the Mayor of Dover announced himself "overwhelmed at an Englishman doing what has never been

done before and will never be done again."

The Daily Telegraph proclaimed: "At this moment the Captain is probably the best-known and most popular man in the world." Even the *New York Times* wrote: "London baths are crowded, each village pond and running stream contains youthful worshippers at the shrine of Webb."

The Stock Exchange set up a testimonial fund. It raised an exceptional £2,424, of which Webb gave £500 to his father and invested £1,872 for a guaranteed annual income of £87 for life. He toured the

coach a club that is embedded in world soccer history, with one of the finest arenas and 80,000 fans.

Those fine fans had planned to make a vocal protest against McCann, Brown and the man they see as their new puppet during Venglos's first match in charge, against St Patrick's Athletic of Dublin, in the first leg of their European Champions League qualifier at Celtic Park last Wednesday. Instead, partly out of respect, partly out of apprehension, they settled for something more unassuming: one of the most vociferous crowds in football stayed as silent as Trappist monks for most of the 90 minutes before breaking into boos at the end.

Venglos, who had slipped into his dug-out seat almost unnoticed, and certainly unheralded, finished the evening as he had finished so many at Villa Park, apologising to the fans and his staff for the result, a goalless draw. Steve Stride, the former secretary of Villa, says: "Joe looks every defeat to heart and would come and apologise to me personally. I could never get used to that or the fact that he called me Mr Secretary General. He also couldn't understand players having a drink and a joke after a defeat. He felt there should be a funeral atmosphere."

There could be a real funeral if Celtic fail to overcome the part-timers St Pat's in the second leg at Tolka Park on Wednesday. There will be much fingering of worry

beads, if not rosary beads, among fans who witnessed the impotence of Celtic's attack, though they did score twice against Spurs on Saturday. Defeat at this stage in Europe is unthinkable, both financially and in terms of morale, for a club desperate to believe that last year's championship win was a real turning point rather than a temporary interruption in the flow of Rangers' success. Until Jansen delivered that title it seemed that Celtic, in common with The Likely Lads, had only the past to look forward to.

Venglos is not panicking. "You get games like that in football but it has not changed my opinion of my players," he said. "I have every faith in them and I will give them the time and understanding that they need. They needed treatment and rehabilitation after that game. It was the first match of the season and I think the second leg will be different..."

While he waits for his work permit Venglos is operating under the precarious title of head coach designate. If fans are prepared to give him a chance, they have justifiable reservations about the manner in which he was hastily appointed following a 10-week search for a manager.

He realises he was fourth choice behind, in order of preference, Gerard Houllier, Egil Olsen and Tommy Svensson, though Brown claimed Celtic had been chasing Venglos for a month. The fans



For my next trick: Jozef Venglos, left, and far left, the morning after his first match in charge of Celtic, the mausoleum goalless draw last week against St Patrick's Athletic. Below, the team celebrate their title in May. Middle, Paul Lambert, Celtic's midfielder

PHOTOGRAPHS: JEFF MITCHELL, SHAN MONTGOMERY, STU POSTER, ALEX LIVESSEY, GARY M. PROCK

regarded that as an insult to their intelligence, castigating Brown for saying that no money would need to be spent on a team good enough to win the title. Such a sentiment, they point out, was not likely to attract a top-class man.

Venglos, it is believed, was an ideal choice in the eyes of McCann and Brown because he is quiet and easy-going and unlikely to provoke the kind of open hostility that existed between Celtic's ruling partnership and their previous three managers: Lou Macari, Tommy Burns and Jansen. Like Ellis at Villa, Brown and McCann are said to want a yes-man.

Venglos, 52, is taking his first coaching job for five years, this doctor of physical education seeming to prefer the world of academia to the

cutting edge of football management. He has organised several FIFA study groups and was a member of its technical study panel at the World Cup.

If he was 10 years ahead of his time when he walked into Villa in 1980, he was already 14 years past his most successful year as a coach when he led Czechoslovakia to victory in the European Championships, beating Germany on penalties in the final. An indifferent time at Sporting Lisbon followed, plus spells as coach of the Australian and Slovakian national sides.

Nigel Spink, Villa's goalkeeper in 1990, says: "I think he was too much of a culture shock for us, and us for him. We had got into a certain groove under Graham Taylor and the players were not ready for someone with new

ideas about how we should train and what we should eat.

"His knowledge of the game, though, was second to none. I thought Ron Atkinson's knowledge of football was outstanding but Venglos was in a different class. He knew all about us before he arrived and he will have known all about the Celtic players before going there."

In the last 10 years the British game has come on in leaps and bounds in the way we prepare for matches and look after ourselves outside the game so things should be easier for him this time round."

Gordon Cowans, now Villa's youth coach but a player under Venglos, says: "He was a lovely fellow, a real gentleman who treated players the way they like to be treated. He brought in different methods of diets and fitness which are now becoming commonplace but the players didn't give him the co-operation he deserved."

Now Venglos may not get the financial co-operation he deserves from his new employers, who have maintained their grip on the purse strings despite a £20 million spending spree by Rangers' new manager Dick Advocaat. So, as he embarks on what is certain to be another difficult voyage through British football, Venglos will need the optimism of Dr Pangloss, who maintained his faith in life and humanity despite the most horrendous personal misfortunes. But he never attempted to manage Celtic.

Time to say knickers to the knockers of childish things

THIS SPORTING LIFE

Harry Pearson

SPORTS people who behave badly are often accused of childishness. As if this were a bad thing. But what sport desperately needs is not less but more childishness. Would, for example, the game of football be in such a mess if the organisers had years ago introduced "childish" rules compelling the riders to go round corners with one foot scraping on the ground, speedway-style, included a section of the route in which the competitors had to give a friend a lift on their handlebars and awarded daily time bonuses for those who did the longest skid? I think not.

Nor I suspect would cricketers make such an unseemly fuss about poor law decisions if, instead of the umpires, all arbitration was passed "childishly" into the hands of the large, tough player from the council estate everyone else is afraid of.

The sport which would benefit most from a return to the zest and innocence of the playground is football. These are the radical new rules I would like to see: Sepp Blatter and his FIFA henchmen implementing at the earliest opportunity.

First, the pitch must be radically altered. Goalposts, naturally, should be replaced by jumpers while the exact position of the "bar" should be determined by a big argument between the goalkeeper ("It went over

my hands and I was stretching and jumping") and the opposition player who is claiming the goal ("No you weren't. Your knees were bent and you were leaning over to one side") and eventually resolved by a wrestling match (single submission the winner, no fists, kicking or biting).

One touchline should be clearly demarcated by a hedge, wall or line of parked cars, and the other will lie at the point which both sets of players agree is so far away that neither is bothered to run after the ball any more once it has gone beyond it.

At random moments during the game the size of the pitch may be altered by another game involving smaller players starting up in one corner; a group of girls determined to play elastic skips; a gang of youths on bicycles who are using the game as a cover for experimentation with cigarettes; an elderly couple in an Austin Allegro who set up a picnic table and declare that "if that ball hits any of this crockery, you'll catch it".

The match will last from "after lunch" until "tea", a length of time calculated by having an old-fashioned school dinner lady boil a cabbage until it is done — roughly four hours. Half-time will be taken when the two biggest players decide they are thirsty and will go on for as long as it takes one of the competitors (usually the youngest or weakest) to go to the nearest shop and buy bottles of pop and a selection of Blackjacks, fruit salads and those pink shrimp things that seem to have been made out of sweetened polystyrene.

The game will end when the cabbage is boiled to a pulp and the dinner lady appears on the touchline yelling: "Your tea's on the table. Come in this instant. I don't care if you are 3-2

down and just about to take a penalty, young feller me lad, you're not letting good food go to waste. No arguments and stop that muttering or you'll not be playing at all next week."

In keeping with the practice of childhood football FIFA will introduce new rankings for players in imitation of the popular system, "Gary's Worth At Least Two Of The Titchy Kids". Under the rankings an established national star will be the equivalent of two youth team players or a dozen members of the under-12s squad.

This will lead to greater tactical flexibility for coaches and more chance for good players to show off by dribbling round dozens of youngsters, sometimes while kneeling down or using only their wrong foot.

It would also create some interesting matches. Who would not be fascinated, for example, by the chance to see how Arsenal's current XI would fare against the packed defence of an entire primary school representing Kenny Dalglish's Newcastle?

Team selection duties will not stop there. The coach will also be expected to designate one team member per match who has to play in wellies and another who is not allowed to get dirty because "we're off to our Auntie Ethel's after".

AS FOR discipline, FIFA will administer a system of humiliating childish punishments. Clearly the prospect of a ban, fine and the country's disapprobation was not enough but would David Beckham have so rashly kicked out at Diego Simeone if he thought it would result in him being forced to play three matches this season wearing a pair of his sister's knickers?

A Rose by any other name, such as Chuasiriporn

CENTRE STAGE

Pete Nichols

THE best way to settle nerves in a play-off is to face an amateur. It is an economic argument. Mark O'Meara would maintain that the title at Royal Birkdale was everything. "This one above all," he said, approximately, with the claret jug in his hand. But against Brian Watts there was the small matter of big money to think about as well as the crown. The winner took £300,000 and the runner-up only £188,000. Pressure indeed.

In the biggest prize in the women's game two weeks earlier that was not the case. Se Ri Pak had to face the worst of all play-offs in the US Open, or so it seemed: sudden death on the one hand, unreadiness for it on the other. Jenny Chuasiriporn pushed it to a play-off with a 40-footer at the final hole. Se Ri Pak, to save the day, had waded into a duck pond for her shot to the green.

It was only a bogey but even bogies have a way of becoming holes in one. And for the South Korean there were compensations: she could play off for the title without having to worry about the money. The American, Chuasiriporn, an amateur, had no claim on the £188,000 that was up for grabs. Se Ri Pak was so relaxed she could have fallen over, except that is not her style. She won on the second extra hole, for her second major victory of the season and made the rookie-of-the-year title — the 20-year-old is in her first full season with the US LPGA — the most irrelevant prize since Fila's accepted award.

Chuasiriporn, 21, a few days later, went home to Timonium, Maryland, bemoaning her capabilities with the nine-iron, the source of several of her ills. She should consider Dennis Bergkamp's left foot, having something to learn on is no bar to greatness. Chuasiriporn might have to handle a little of that. "I imagine the media stuff is not going to last too long," she said naively after the event at Blackwolf Run in Kohler, Dream on.

The impact has already been made at Duke College, in North Carolina, where registering her achievements has become almost tedious. Chuasiriporn (to pronounce it properly the "u" is redundant) in her three years at Duke has



Major player... the amateur Chuasiriporn

twice won the colleges championship and twice led her university to the team title. There are echoes of Annika Sorenstam, whose praises the British ladies' amateur champion will lead the GB & I team. The average age of the visiting side is 24, which puts youth on their side, and the 19-year-old Rebecca Hudson from Doncaster is surely a future professional.

The Curtis Cup will give Chuasiriporn no time to dwell on past achievements. Match-play is sport at its confrontational best. There will, though, be an added incentive for the Duke University senior.

In the US team is a freshman (they never call them freshmen) from Duke University called Beth Bauer. Between them they will probably never earn what Grant Hill, a basketball alumnus, picked up last summer (\$80 million over seven years for a shoe sponsorship) but for the next 12 months they will be jostling each other as the best golfer on the campus and the best in US college sport.

In a few years they will both be chasing the rainbow's pot in the professional game, as Hudson, Becky Morgan and Alison Rose in the visiting team may be, but this week-end nothing will count as much. The money is not in the frame.

A to S of the new Premiership

Aberdeen
Odds 23-1
Last year's champions, Aberdeen, who have lost their league title in the first half of the season, are the only team to have lost their league title in the first half of the season. They are the only team to have lost their league title in the first half of the season.

Celtic
Odds 7-1
Last year's champions, Celtic, are the only team to have lost their league title in the first half of the season. They are the only team to have lost their league title in the first half of the season.

Manchester United
Odds 10-1
Last year's champions, Manchester United, are the only team to have lost their league title in the first half of the season. They are the only team to have lost their league title in the first half of the season.

World lecturing and swimming
He won £1,000 for an American "Channel equivalent", crossing from Sandy Hook to Manhattan Beach, and the same sum for beating the US champion Paul Boyton in a "world championship race" off Nantasket Beach. He got another four-figure sum for "remaining afloat in a tank of water for 178 hours" at the Boston Horticultural Show. He did no end of that sort of thing.

Webb and his wife Madeleine now had two children. With his fitness giving him concern he decided to play his last card which would, in spite of his

Spendingthrift generosity
set up the family for life. The famous circus performer Blondin had lately caught the world's imagination by walking over the Niagara Falls on a tightrope.

At least £12,000, a fortune
Madeleine was ignorant of his intentions when he travelled to the Falls with a friend Robert Watson. On seeing from the bank the venomous whirlpool — a sight so terrifying it had apparently inspired Edgar Allan Poe to write The Maelstrom — Watson wrote: "As we stood face to face I compared the fine handsome sailor I had first met with the broken-spirited and terribly altered appearance of the man who now courted death in the whirlpool rapids. His object was not suicide but money and imperishable fame."

At 4pm on July 24, 1853
spectators crammed on each bank saw Webb dive into the river wearing the same red costume he had worn to cross the Channel eight summers before. He was instantly gripped by the force of the current.

Charles Spradson's classic study of the swimmer as hero, *Hunts Of The Black Masseur* (Cape, 1992), describes Webb heading straight for the whirlpool: "At first he kept on his way, swimming, then abruptly he threw up his arms and was drawn under. His last words to the boatman had been, 'If I die, they will do something for my wife.'"

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Super League: St Helens 2 Wigan 36

Andy Wilson in Swansea

Anthony Sullivan, Saints' Welsh winger, had already done well to clear the danger from an intelligent kick from the Great Britain captain but was powerless to prevent Rad-

St Helens: Archeson, C Smith, D Smith, Newlove, Sullivan, Long, Goulding, Goldspink, Cunningham, Perellin, Joynt, Sculthorpe, Martyn, Substitutes Anderson, Davidson, Hammond, Pickavance.



Andy Wilson

The amber-and-blacks saw Dean Sampson inspire Cas with a magnificent performance capped by a rampaging solo try, although the scores were locked at 16-16

full. "I haven't seen a league game in the flesh and I want to soak up the atmosphere. The game warrants a chance here, and there couldn't be a better time with union unfortunately in chaos."

Gary Clarke, a 29-year-old window fabricator from Aberdeen, made no bones about it: "You've got to have it down here. I don't care whether in Cardiff or Swansea, because the crowds for union are fading away. Neath have just gone through — we need rugby leagues in South Wales."

Jan Buse

Late starter . . . Ian Wright made his West Ham debut as a substitute in the 1-1 draw at Motherwell **ALAN HARVEY**

Christian Bright in Somalia

Only three minutes had elapsed when that distant likelihood of Uefa Cup glory vanished. That was as long as

The manager's view was in a definite minority. Palace enjoyed plenty of possession but

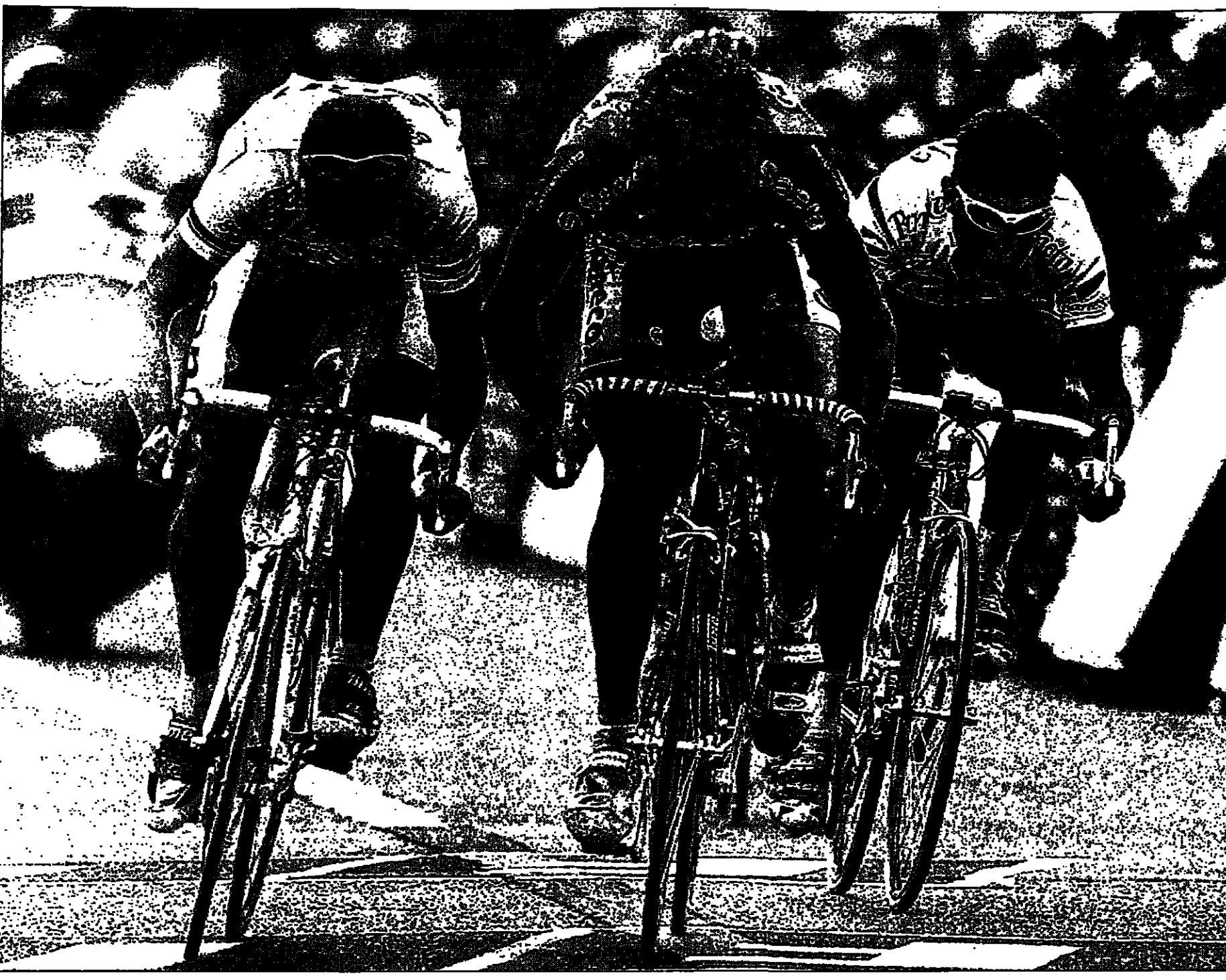
Crystal Palace (4-4-2): Miller; Smith
(Burton, 50), Austin, Linighan, Tuttle;
Thomson, (Hibbert 78), Edworthy, Mullins,
Helderson; Shipperley (Morrison, 57),
Jansen.

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Tour de France



Blazing saddles... Australia's Stuart O'Grady, left, gets his head down to beat Giuseppe Calcaterra, centre, and Orlando Rodriguez to the line

PHOTOGRAPH: LAURENT REBOURS

Ullrich awaits the Alpine heat

William Fotheringham in Grenoble on a second stage win for O'Grady as the yellow-jersey wearer cruises between mountains

THE stage of transition from Provence to the Alps yesterday was surely the calm before the storm. Today's three major climbs — the Croix de Fer, the Galibier and the drag to the finish at Les Deux Alpes — will be decisive in the battle for the yellow jersey and there is a chance the weather will break and we will have thunderstorms. Meanwhile, the police heading drug investigations across France will, no doubt, return from their weekend break refreshed for the fray.

Even though the 118-mile stage from Valfréas included the eight-mile climb of the Col de Rousset, Jan Ullrich and his rivals were aware it was merely a foretaste of what awaits. With the minds of the stars elsewhere — on saving strength rather than worrying about the latest drug revelations — it was a day for journeymen, and six relative underdogs were allowed to gain more than 10 minutes.

The Italian Giuseppe Calcaterra and the Portuguese Orlando Rodriguez had been liberated by the departure of their respective team leaders Mario Cipollini and Abraham Olano. The other four, former maillots jaunes Stuart O'Grady and Laurent Desjardins, the US Postal Service team's Dane Peter Meinert-Nielsen, and the Pan stage winner Leon van Bon are men of the autobus, and can be expected to take their places in the group of non-climbers as it chugs to the finish today.

They left the bunch behind amid deep-blue lavender fields, fortified stone-built hilltop villages and rocky hill-sides covered in scrubby oak trees. The tunnel at the top of the Rousset marked the entry to the dramatic limestone plateau and gorges of the Vercors, and the last 40 miles into Grenoble were a sub-Alpine mélange of hayfields, chalets, and the occasional ski lift.

Ullrich's Telekom team have continually let riders who are no threat, overall, desert to contest stage wins; on Saturday's stage to Carpentras *un bon de sortie* — cycling slang for a day ticket to the front line — was given to a large group, including the 1996 maillot jaune Stéphane Heulot, with the young Italian Daniele Nardello fastest in the six-man gallop for the line.

Having sped down into Grenoble from the Vercors, the sextet feinted and sparred their way into the final 500 metres, where the stage finish turned into a straight fight between Calcaterra and O'Grady. The Italian was a fine sprinter in his youth and he duly got the jump on the Australian. But his speed is fading with age and O'Grady nipped past in the final metres. Since winning the Tour in May, the man from Adelaide has not looked back.

At the start the delicate scent wafting from the lavender fields seemed almost to have expunged the stench of scandal which has hung over this Tour since Dublin. It was almost festive business as usual, with little of the tension which was in the air before the riders' strike on Friday. The stress will again be palpable this morning as they prepare to face the Alps.

However, there were reminders that all is not well. The TVM team turned up at the start with set faces, knowing their days in the race may be numbered. Over the week-end their team manager Cees Priem was transferred to

police custody in Reims over two seizures of banned drugs; if he admits supplying substances to his team and they are likely to be expelled as usual, with little of the tension which was in the air before the riders' strike on Friday. The stress will again be palpable this morning as they prepare to face the Alps.

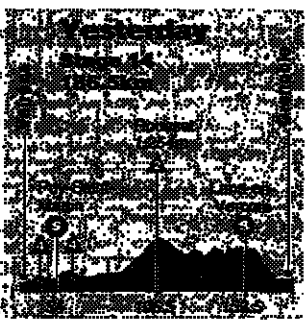
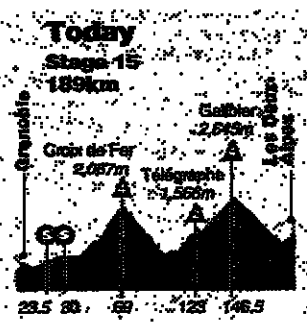
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The crowds show no signs of deserting the Tour, and flocked to the roadsides from campsites and colonies de vacances. But there were placards calling on the Tour's director general Jean-Marie Leblanc to resign: one read "the public has the right to know, thanks to the police and the investigators" and another compared erythropoietin to pasta. Erythropoietin may be less damaging to the liver, but it is set to leave this Tour with one hell of a hangover.

William Fotheringham is assistant editor of Cycling Weekly



Golf

Clarke's surge fails to dislodge Leaney

Gordon Richardson at Hilversum sees the Australian spurred to victory by tragedy

DARREN CLARKE produced a swashbuckling 63 to take the Dutch Open to the wire here yesterday but the Australian Stephen Leaney hung on for victory by one stroke.

With the Ulsterman speeding to the turn in 30 with three birdies and an eagle, Leaney was never going to enjoy the closing round, as he did when he won the Moroccan Open by eight shots earlier this year.

Three more birdies after a bogey at the 10th earned Clarke a share of the course record with Leo Westwood, who tied for third with Nick Price, and Leaney, who shot a 63 earlier in the week, but it was not enough.

Leaney managed a crucial up-and-down par from sand at the 16th and a 10-foot birdie at the next to allow himself the luxury of playing safe for a par five after bending his 18th tee shot behind a tree. A 57 left him 18 under par on 266 and earned him £133,130.

Clarke's £28,880 cheque nudged his season's winnings to £383,343 and lifted him to fourth in the European money list behind Westwood (£590,585), who recovered from a quiet start for a 67 which included a 40-yard pitch-in at the 16th. Price matched Westwood's home-ward 31 for a 66 and they each won £45,036.

After three days of Justin Rosemania the more seasoned members of the cast took centre stage, with Westwood, Clarke and Price favourites for the title.

But it was the slender Leaney, a 29-year-old former Eisenhower Trophy amateur making his first appearance in this championship, who took control with a serene display of accurate shot-making on the tightly wooded course.

He confessed that he had been deeply affected by the death in a London car accident on Thursday of the wife of his fellow Australian professional Stuart Appleby, a close friend. "It didn't matter what I shot or whether I won in the light of that tragedy," he said. "I wanted to win even more, though, for Stuart and it helped me stay focused."

"I may look a gentle chap on the outside but I'm hard on the inside and I wanted badly to beat the top players after winning in a lesser field in Morocco. Now I'm starting to believe in myself. My win has probably come too late to get me into the US PGA championship but my target is to play for the rest of the world against America in the President's Cup later in the year."

Leaney, who was sidelined for 15 months from December 1996 after surgery to clip seven centimetres off a rib to ease the pressure that caused

a blood clot in his right shoulder, barely put a foot wrong.

To his credit Clarke, who failed to make the cut at the Open, produced his lowest score of the year to take the contest to the 72nd.

"I've played bad all week and had lessons from everybody," he said. "On the range this morning I was duck-hokey, hitting it fat, hitting it heavy but on the course I played great. Every part of my game was on and its frustrating to equal the record and lose out."

After going out in 30 he three-putted the 10th and missed from a yard for a birdie at the 12th, but in went six-putters at the 13th and 14th and he hopes to take his new-found form to the US PGA in Seattle in two weeks provided his wife, Heather, gives birth to their first child on schedule on August 6.

Westwood found that weeks of tense title contention, which brought him three victories, had taken their toll. He complained of feeling drained even after opening rounds of 63 and 66 and it showed with a third-round 72 and again yesterday, when he took 36 to go out.

But he rallied with four birdies in the last eight holes and after a break will surely be a challenger in Seattle. "I'm looking forward to a complete break this week and not touching a club," he said. "Then I'll get ready for the US PGA."



Kiss of life... Leaney celebrates victory

JERRY LAMPEN

Davies breezes in to end drought

Elsbeth Burnside in Gottenburg

THE smile had returned as Laura Davies heaved a huge sigh of relief and hoisted the Chrysler Open trophy above her head here at the Sjogårds course yesterday. After 10 months without a win the former world No. 1 was back where she reckons she belongs.

Two in front going into the final round, she equalled the day's best with a three-under-par 70 and the £18,750 was hers by six shots. "After such a long run without a victory I was feeling very nervous before I went out today," she said. "The conditions were very tough but I felt in control."

The victory maintained her remarkable record of having won at least once in Europe every year since she joined the Tour in 1985. It puts her in good heart for the season's final major, the Du Maurier Classic in Canada on Thursday.

On another blustery day when par was out of reach for the majority of the field, Davies' win was something of a stroll. She covered the front nine in 35, an easy chip-and-putt birdie at the long 8th interrupting a string of pars. At that stage she was four ahead. She did

three-putt to drop a shot at the 14th but her second eagle of the week at the 437-yard 15th, following a drive, nine-iron and 25-foot putt, convinced her it was game, set and match.

Fia Nilsson, the Solheim Cup captain, was among the gallery and was delighted to witness Davies returning to form. "It is great to see Laura, Trish [Johnson] and Alison [Nicholas] all playing so well," said the Swede, who is totally upbeat about Europe's chances of beating the Americans at Muirfield Village in September. "The nucleus of the team is world-class and I think our chances of victory are very, very good."

Johnson, who finished runner-up in the Austrian Open last week, matched Davies' closing round to finish joint second with Ragnie Carriedo, who shot 73. For Nicholas a week that started with a diagnosis that she had suffered a recurrence of the viral pneumonia which has blighted her season finished on a high note with a 73 for the fourth spot.

Nicholas has decided to take a break this week, but Johnson has opted to miss the Du Maurier and continue her European Tour campaign at the German Open in Hamburg.

Only Floyd on par among US Seniors

RAY FLOYD was the only player to match par as he took a three-stroke lead into the final round of the US Seniors Open at Pacific Palisades, California.

Floyd, a former Ryder Cup captain, bogeyed the last five holes but still headed the field after a 73 to stand on an even-par 213.

He missed par putts of six and five feet respectively at the 14th and 18th and said afterwards: "I'd like to think that had I putted a little bit better, I'd come in here with a pretty decent-size lead. But I'm thrilled to be in this position. I have endured."

Hale Irwin, the leading money-winner on the Senior Tour, Dave Stockton and Isao Aoki of Japan shared second place on 216.

Only three players managed to break par on Saturday but Irwin, who had suffered his worst Seniors round 48 hours earlier, a 77, only narrowly failed to join them. He had a 71, helped by a 35-foot chip-in for a birdie at the final hole.

Tom Jenkins also managed a 71 and was tied at 217 with Hugh Baloch of South Africa and Roy Vucich.

Jack Nicklaus was in the hunt after two rounds at four over par, but his hip injury appeared to deteriorate with every shot and on Saturday he slipped to a 79, his worst round since joining the Seniors Tour in 1980. He entered the final round 12 shots off the pace.

PARTING SHOT

Synchronised water polo... members of the Hungarian team reckon that a breath in time saves nine during competition in the European Junior Women's Championship at Millfield School, Somerset, yesterday

Photograph by Christopher Jones



Even Ramps can let you slope off

SCREEN BREAK

Martin Kelner

CRICKET, after a summer in which it has had to fight for our eyes and ears against the World Cup, Wimbledon and the Super League live from Gateshead (all right, not the Super League; that's just me), recaptured centre stage this weekend.

Well, sort of. Even when the cricket is the main event on commercial-free terrestrial television and you are fairly engaged by what is going on, it somehow fails to be at the centre of anything.

Sure, it is a comforting presence in the corner, to be monitored for any increase in volume that might signal a

If it is going to be an exciting Test match, you might as well cut to the chase and just watch the last hour or so

satisfactory addition to the England total or the fall of a South African wicket; in short, something worth waking up for.

But my view — and I know this will not make me universally popular — is that there is no point in watching the middle bit of a Test. If it is going to be an exciting match, you might as well cut to the chase and just watch the last hour or so.

I managed to follow Mark Ramprakash's doughty knock on Saturday to my entire satisfaction, despite leaving the room several times to make coffee and fairly complex sandwiches involving chopping lettuce and closely examining the self-by dates on cooked meats. Indeed, at one point I went into town for a haircut and to change some foreign currency without feeling my enjoyment of a fine piece of cricket significantly diminished.

Whoever observed that when you watch football on television you are frightened to leave the room in case something happens, whereas with cricket you leave the room hoping something will, got it about right.

Cricket is probably the only sport that is best viewed on radio, thanks largely to Test Match Special, which remains, despite changes of cast and irrespective of the quality of the match, compulsive listening. On television you might see a felder polish the ball on his trousers but

only on the radio do you get in-depth discussion of the manoeuvre.

"Salisbury is bending over now," said Henry Blofeld. "This is a new fashion for modern players. They bend over so they can polish the ball on the tautness of the trousers stretched by the behind. Why do they do that?" At this point one of Blofeld's better-informed colleagues explained that the tautness of the trousers was not one available to players of an earlier era because the old-fashioned flannels would not stretch in the same way. Players liked to polish the ball on a tightly stretched surface to get more power in the wrist or forearm.

"Yes, power in the wrist," chorled Blofeld.

The ball-polishing discussion, which in truth did not go anywhere much but was highly entertaining none the less, continued for a full, fairly uneventful over during which David Gower, Tony Lewis and their television colleagues would have struggled to retain your attention.

The return of Blofeld, while it did not have this viewer dancing in the street exactly, did help the television coverage along a little by re-introducing a distinctive and enthusiastic voice, although there was a noticeable silence in the commentary box when Blofeld said a Ramprakash drive: "That's what I like to see. Pick your place and smack it."

THOSE of us who found the cricket a little colourless for our taste had no complaints when Grandstand switched to the racing from Ascot. Clare Balding, who appeared to be wearing a length of bright orange broadcast curtain, was interviewing Willie Carson, who had chosen for the occasion a lilac shirt and a pink-and-black kippie tie. They were then joined by Frankie Dettori in an electric lime shirt with cutaway collar and a blue polka-dot tie. It's the only time I can recall jockeys' silks being less colourful than the presenters' outfits.

But what you really want to know about is Super League, which I have been monitoring faithfully even during the World Cup, simply to find out what new thing they have come up with. I don't like to take my eye off Super League for too long lest, while I'm not looking, someone at Sky decides it would be more commercial to play the game on horseback, on ice.

Whatever happens, you can be sure Eddie and Steve, the Beavis and Butt-head of the commentary box, will give it their rapturous approval. The latest wheeze is something called the Super League Roadshow in which a game scheduled to be played in Hull or Warrington is transplanted to a deprived part of the country where rugby league is not normally available, like Edinburgh or in the ethereal atmosphere of a three-quarters empty athletics stadium in Gateshead, something Eddie described, with typical understatement, as "the Gateshead experience".

Results

FOOTBALL

PREMIER LEAGUE 20:00: Arsenal 1, Liverpool 0. 21:00: Manchester United 1, Tottenham 0. 22:00: Chelsea 1, Wimbledon 0. 23:00: Newcastle 1, Everton 0. 24:00: Blackburn 1, Middlesbrough 0. 25:00: Aston Villa 1, Birmingham 0. 26:00: Leeds 1, Sheffield Wednesday 0. 27:00: Derby 1, Nottingham Forest 0. 28:00: Fulham 1, Ipswich 0. 29:00: Luton 1, Barnsley 0. 30:00: Millwall 1, Notts County 0. 31:00: Peterborough 1, Shrewsbury 0. 32:00: Rotherham 1, Bury 0. 33:00: Walsley 1, Gillingham 0. 34:00: Exeter 1, Yeovil 0. 35:00: Torquay 1, Dagenham 0. 36:00: Southend 1, Weymouth 0. 37:00: Grimsby 1, Hartlepool 0. 38:00: Scunthorpe 1, Lincoln 0. 39:00: Doncaster 1, Rochdale 0. 40:00: Barnet 1, Hemel Hempstead 0. 41:00: Stevenage 1, Maidstone 0. 42:00: Ebbsfleet 1, Wealdstone 0. 43:00: Havering 1, Boreham Wood 0. 44:00: Thurrock 1, Chelmsford 0. 45:00: Basildon 1, Clacton 0. 46:00: Braintree 1, Chesham 0. 47:00: Dagenham Red 1, Dagenham White 0. 48:00: Dagenham Blue 1, Dagenham Green 0. 49:00: Dagenham Yellow 1, Dagenham Purple 0. 50:00: Dagenham Pink 1, Dagenham Brown 0. 51:00: Dagenham Grey 1, Dagenham Black 0. 52:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 53:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 54:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 55:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 56:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 57:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 58:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 59:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 60:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0.

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LEAGUE ONE 20:00: Arsenal 1, Liverpool 0. 21:00: Manchester United 1, Tottenham 0. 22:00: Chelsea 1, Wimbledon 0. 23:00: Newcastle 1, Everton 0. 24:00: Blackburn 1, Middlesbrough 0. 25:00: Aston Villa 1, Birmingham 0. 26:00: Leeds 1, Sheffield Wednesday 0. 27:00: Derby 1, Nottingham Forest 0. 28:00: Fulham 1, Ipswich 0. 29:00: Luton 1, Barnsley 0. 30:00: Millwall 1, Notts County 0. 31:00: Peterborough 1, Shrewsbury 0. 32:00: Rotherham 1, Bury 0. 33:00: Walsley 1, Gillingham 0. 34:00: Exeter 1, Yeovil 0. 35:00: Torquay 1, Dagenham 0. 36:00: Southend 1, Weymouth 0. 37:00: Grimsby 1, Hartlepool 0. 38:00: Scunthorpe 1, Lincoln 0. 39:00: Doncaster 1, Rochdale 0. 40:00: Barnet 1, Hemel Hempstead 0. 41:00: Stevenage 1, Maidstone 0. 42:00: Ebbsfleet 1, Wealdstone 0. 43:00: Havering 1, Boreham Wood 0. 44:00: Thurrock 1, Chelmsford 0. 45:00: Basildon 1, Clacton 0. 46:00: Braintree 1, Chesham 0. 47:00: Dagenham Red 1, Dagenham White 0. 48:00: Dagenham Blue 1, Dagenham Green 0. 49:00: Dagenham Yellow 1, Dagenham Purple 0. 50:00: Dagenham Pink 1, Dagenham Brown 0. 51:00: Dagenham Grey 1, Dagenham Black 0. 52:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 53:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 54:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 55:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 56:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 57:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 58:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 59:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 60:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0.

LEAGUE TWO 20:00: Arsenal 1, Liverpool 0. 21:00: Manchester United 1, Tottenham 0. 22:00: Chelsea 1, Wimbledon 0. 23:00: Newcastle 1, Everton 0. 24:00: Blackburn 1, Middlesbrough 0. 25:00: Aston Villa 1, Birmingham 0. 26:00: Leeds 1, Sheffield Wednesday 0. 27:00: Derby 1, Nottingham Forest 0. 28:00: Fulham 1, Ipswich 0. 29:00: Luton 1, Barnsley 0. 30:00: Millwall 1, Notts County 0. 31:00: Peterborough 1, Shrewsbury 0. 32:00: Rotherham 1, Bury 0. 33:00: Walsley 1, Gillingham 0. 34:00: Exeter 1, Yeovil 0. 35:00: Torquay 1, Dagenham 0. 36:00: Southend 1, Weymouth 0. 37:00: Grimsby 1, Hartlepool 0. 38:00: Scunthorpe 1, Lincoln 0. 39:00: Doncaster 1, Rochdale 0. 40:00: Barnet 1, Hemel Hempstead 0. 41:00: Stevenage 1, Maidstone 0. 42:00: Ebbsfleet 1, Wealdstone 0. 43:00: Havering 1, Boreham Wood 0. 44:00: Thurrock 1, Chelmsford 0. 45:00: Basildon 1, Clacton 0. 46:00: Braintree 1, Chesham 0. 47:00: Dagenham Red 1, Dagenham White 0. 48:00: Dagenham Blue 1, Dagenham Green 0. 49:00: Dagenham Yellow 1, Dagenham Purple 0. 50:00: Dagenham Pink 1, Dagenham Brown 0. 51:00: Dagenham Grey 1, Dagenham Black 0. 52:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 53:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 54:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 55:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 56:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 57:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 58:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 59:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 60:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0.

LEAGUE THREE 20:00: Arsenal 1, Liverpool 0. 21:00: Manchester United 1, Tottenham 0. 22:00: Chelsea 1, Wimbledon 0. 23:00: Newcastle 1, Everton 0. 24:00: Blackburn 1, Middlesbrough 0. 25:00: Aston Villa 1, Birmingham 0. 26:00: Leeds 1, Sheffield Wednesday 0. 27:00: Derby 1, Nottingham Forest 0. 28:00: Fulham 1, Ipswich 0. 29:00: Luton 1, Barnsley 0. 30:00: Millwall 1, Notts County 0. 31:00: Peterborough 1, Shrewsbury 0. 32:00: Rotherham 1, Bury 0. 33:00: Walsley 1, Gillingham 0. 34:00: Exeter 1, Yeovil 0. 35:00: Torquay 1, Dagenham 0. 36:00: Southend 1, Weymouth 0. 37:00: Grimsby 1, Hartlepool 0. 38:00: Scunthorpe 1, Lincoln 0. 39:00: Doncaster 1, Rochdale 0. 40:00: Barnet 1, Hemel Hempstead 0. 41:00: Stevenage 1, Maidstone 0. 42:00: Ebbsfleet 1, Wealdstone 0. 43:00: Havering 1, Boreham Wood 0. 44:00: Thurrock 1, Chelmsford 0. 45:00: Basildon 1, Clacton 0. 46:00: Braintree 1, Chesham 0. 47:00: Dagenham Red 1, Dagenham White 0. 48:00: Dagenham Blue 1, Dagenham Green 0. 49:00: Dagenham Yellow 1, Dagenham Purple 0. 50:00: Dagenham Pink 1, Dagenham Brown 0. 51:00: Dagenham Grey 1, Dagenham Black 0. 52:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 53:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 54:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 55:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 56:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 57:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 58:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 59:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 60:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0.

LEAGUE FOUR 20:00: Arsenal 1, Liverpool 0. 21:00: Manchester United 1, Tottenham 0. 22:00: Chelsea 1, Wimbledon 0. 23:00: Newcastle 1, Everton 0. 24:00: Blackburn 1, Middlesbrough 0. 25:00: Aston Villa 1, Birmingham 0. 26:00: Leeds 1, Sheffield Wednesday 0. 27:00: Derby 1, Nottingham Forest 0. 28:00: Fulham 1, Ipswich 0. 29:00: Luton 1, Barnsley 0. 30:00: Millwall 1, Notts County 0. 31:00: Peterborough 1, Shrewsbury 0. 32:00: Rotherham 1, Bury 0. 33:00: Walsley 1, Gillingham 0. 34:00: Exeter 1, Yeovil 0. 35:00: Torquay 1, Dagenham 0. 36:00: Southend 1, Weymouth 0. 37:00: Grimsby 1, Hartlepool 0. 38:00: Scunthorpe 1, Lincoln 0. 39:00: Doncaster 1, Rochdale 0. 40:00: Barnet 1, Hemel Hempstead 0. 41:00: Stevenage 1, Maidstone 0. 42:00: Ebbsfleet 1, Wealdstone 0. 43:00: Havering 1, Boreham Wood 0. 44:00: Thurrock 1, Chelmsford 0. 45:00: Basildon 1, Clacton 0. 46:00: Braintree 1, Chesham 0. 47:00: Dagenham Red 1, Dagenham White 0. 48:00: Dagenham Blue 1, Dagenham Green 0. 49:00: Dagenham Yellow 1, Dagenham Purple 0. 50:00: Dagenham Pink 1, Dagenham Brown 0. 51:00: Dagenham Grey 1, Dagenham Black 0. 52:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 53:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 54:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 55:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 56:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 57:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 58:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 59:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 60:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0.

LEAGUE FIVE 20:00: Arsenal 1, Liverpool 0. 21:00: Manchester United 1, Tottenham 0. 22:00: Chelsea 1, Wimbledon 0. 23:00: Newcastle 1, Everton 0. 24:00: Blackburn 1, Middlesbrough 0. 25:00: Aston Villa 1, Birmingham 0. 26:00: Leeds 1, Sheffield Wednesday 0. 27:00: Derby 1, Nottingham Forest 0. 28:00: Fulham 1, Ipswich 0. 29:00: Luton 1, Barnsley 0. 30:00: Millwall 1, Notts County 0. 31:00: Peterborough 1, Shrewsbury 0. 32:00: Rotherham 1, Bury 0. 33:00: Walsley 1, Gillingham 0. 34:00: Exeter 1, Yeovil 0. 35:00: Torquay 1, Dagenham 0. 36:00: Southend 1, Weymouth 0. 37:00: Grimsby 1, Hartlepool 0. 38:00: Scunthorpe 1, Lincoln 0. 39:00: Doncaster 1, Rochdale 0. 40:00: Barnet 1, Hemel Hempstead 0. 41:00: Stevenage 1, Maidstone 0. 42:00: Ebbsfleet 1, Wealdstone 0. 43:00: Havering 1, Boreham Wood 0. 44:00: Thurrock 1, Chelmsford 0. 45:00: Basildon 1, Clacton 0. 46:00: Braintree 1, Chesham 0. 47:00: Dagenham Red 1, Dagenham White 0. 48:00: Dagenham Blue 1, Dagenham Green 0. 49:00: Dagenham Yellow 1, Dagenham Purple 0. 50:00: Dagenham Pink 1, Dagenham Brown 0. 51:00: Dagenham Grey 1, Dagenham Black 0. 52:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 53:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 54:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 55:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 56:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 57:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 58:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 59:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 60:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0.

LEAGUE SIX 20:00: Arsenal 1, Liverpool 0. 21:00: Manchester United 1, Tottenham 0. 22:00: Chelsea 1, Wimbledon 0. 23:00: Newcastle 1, Everton 0. 24:00: Blackburn 1, Middlesbrough 0. 25:00: Aston Villa 1, Birmingham 0. 26:00: Leeds 1, Sheffield Wednesday 0. 27:00: Derby 1, Nottingham Forest 0. 28:00: Fulham 1, Ipswich 0. 29:00: Luton 1, Barnsley 0. 30:00: Millwall 1, Notts County 0. 31:00: Peterborough 1, Shrewsbury 0. 32:00: Rotherham 1, Bury 0. 33:00: Walsley 1, Gillingham 0. 34:00: Exeter 1, Yeovil 0. 35:00: Torquay 1, Dagenham 0. 36:00: Southend 1, Weymouth 0. 37:00: Grimsby 1, Hartlepool 0. 38:00: Scunthorpe 1, Lincoln 0. 39:00: Doncaster 1, Rochdale 0. 40:00: Barnet 1, Hemel Hempstead 0. 41:00: Stevenage 1, Maidstone 0. 42:00: Ebbsfleet 1, Wealdstone 0. 43:00: Havering 1, Boreham Wood 0. 44:00: Thurrock 1, Chelmsford 0. 45:00: Basildon 1, Clacton 0. 46:00: Braintree 1, Chesham 0. 47:00: Dagenham Red 1, Dagenham White 0. 48:00: Dagenham Blue 1, Dagenham Green 0. 49:00: Dagenham Yellow 1, Dagenham Purple 0. 50:00: Dagenham Pink 1, Dagenham Brown 0. 51:00: Dagenham Grey 1, Dagenham Black 0. 52:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 53:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 54:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 55:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 56:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 57:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 58:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 59:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 60:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0.

LEAGUE SEVEN 20:00: Arsenal 1, Liverpool 0. 21:00: Manchester United 1, Tottenham 0. 22:00: Chelsea 1, Wimbledon 0. 23:00: Newcastle 1, Everton 0. 24:00: Blackburn 1, Middlesbrough 0. 25:00: Aston Villa 1, Birmingham 0. 26:00: Leeds 1, Sheffield Wednesday 0. 27:00: Derby 1, Nottingham Forest 0. 28:00: Fulham 1, Ipswich 0. 29:00: Luton 1, Barnsley 0. 30:00: Millwall 1, Notts County 0. 31:00: Peterborough 1, Shrewsbury 0. 32:00: Rotherham 1, Bury 0. 33:00: Walsley 1, Gillingham 0. 34:00: Exeter 1, Yeovil 0. 35:00: Torquay 1, Dagenham 0. 36:00: Southend 1, Weymouth 0. 37:00: Grimsby 1, Hartlepool 0. 38:00: Scunthorpe 1, Lincoln 0. 39:00: Doncaster 1, Rochdale 0. 40:00: Barnet 1, Hemel Hempstead 0. 41:00: Stevenage 1, Maidstone 0. 42:00: Ebbsfleet 1, Wealdstone 0. 43:00: Havering 1, Boreham Wood 0. 44:00: Thurrock 1, Chelmsford 0. 45:00: Basildon 1, Clacton 0. 46:00: Braintree 1, Chesham 0. 47:00: Dagenham Red 1, Dagenham White 0. 48:00: Dagenham Blue 1, Dagenham Green 0. 49:00: Dagenham Yellow 1, Dagenham Purple 0. 50:00: Dagenham Pink 1, Dagenham Brown 0. 51:00: Dagenham Grey 1, Dagenham Black 0. 52:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 53:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 54:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 55:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 56:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 57:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 58:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 59:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 60:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0.

ATLETICS 20:00: Arsenal 1, Liverpool 0. 21:00: Manchester United 1, Tottenham 0. 22:00: Chelsea 1, Wimbledon 0. 23:00: Newcastle 1, Everton 0. 24:00: Blackburn 1, Middlesbrough 0. 25:00: Aston Villa 1, Birmingham 0. 26:00: Leeds 1, Sheffield Wednesday 0. 27:00: Derby 1, Nottingham Forest 0. 28:00: Fulham 1, Ipswich 0. 29:00: Luton 1, Barnsley 0. 30:00: Millwall 1, Notts County 0. 31:00: Peterborough 1, Shrewsbury 0. 32:00: Rotherham 1, Bury 0. 33:00: Walsley 1, Gillingham 0. 34:00: Exeter 1, Yeovil 0. 35:00: Torquay 1, Dagenham 0. 36:00: Southend 1, Weymouth 0. 37:00: Grimsby 1, Hartlepool 0. 38:00: Scunthorpe 1, Lincoln 0. 39:00: Doncaster 1, Rochdale 0. 40:00: Barnet 1, Hemel Hempstead 0. 41:00: Stevenage 1, Maidstone 0. 42:00: Ebbsfleet 1, Wealdstone 0. 43:00: Havering 1, Boreham Wood 0. 44:00: Thurrock 1, Chelmsford 0. 45:00: Basildon 1, Clacton 0. 46:00: Braintree 1, Chesham 0. 47:00: Dagenham Red 1, Dagenham White 0. 48:00: Dagenham Blue 1, Dagenham Green 0. 49:00: Dagenham Yellow 1, Dagenham Purple 0. 50:00: Dagenham Pink 1, Dagenham Brown 0. 51:00: Dagenham Grey 1, Dagenham Black 0. 52:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 53:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 54:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 55:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 56:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 57:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 58:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 59:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 60:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0.

ATLETICS 20:00: Arsenal 1, Liverpool 0. 21:00: Manchester United 1, Tottenham 0. 22:00: Chelsea 1, Wimbledon 0. 23:00: Newcastle 1, Everton 0. 24:00: Blackburn 1, Middlesbrough 0. 25:00: Aston Villa 1, Birmingham 0. 26:00: Leeds 1, Sheffield Wednesday 0. 27:00: Derby 1, Nottingham Forest 0. 28:00: Fulham 1, Ipswich 0. 29:00: Luton 1, Barnsley 0. 30:00: Millwall 1, Notts County 0. 31:00: Peterborough 1, Shrewsbury 0. 32:00: Rotherham 1, Bury 0. 33:00: Walsley 1, Gillingham 0. 34:00: Exeter 1, Yeovil 0. 35:00: Torquay 1, Dagenham 0. 36:00: Southend 1, Weymouth 0. 37:00: Grimsby 1, Hartlepool 0. 38:00: Scunthorpe 1, Lincoln 0. 39:00: Doncaster 1, Rochdale 0. 40:00: Barnet 1, Hemel Hempstead 0. 41:00: Stevenage 1, Maidstone 0. 42:00: Ebbsfleet 1, Wealdstone 0. 43:00: Havering 1, Boreham Wood 0. 44:00: Thurrock 1, Chelmsford 0. 45:00: Basildon 1, Clacton 0. 46:00: Braintree 1, Chesham 0. 47:00: Dagenham Red 1, Dagenham White 0. 48:00: Dagenham Blue 1, Dagenham Green 0. 49:00: Dagenham Yellow 1, Dagenham Purple 0. 50:00: Dagenham Pink 1, Dagenham Brown 0. 51:00: Dagenham Grey 1, Dagenham Black 0. 52:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 53:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 54:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 55:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 56:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 57:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 58:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 59:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 60:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0.

ATLETICS 20:00: Arsenal 1, Liverpool 0. 21:00: Manchester United 1, Tottenham 0. 22:00: Chelsea 1, Wimbledon 0. 23:00: Newcastle 1, Everton 0. 24:00: Blackburn 1, Middlesbrough 0. 25:00: Aston Villa 1, Birmingham 0. 26:00: Leeds 1, Sheffield Wednesday 0. 27:00: Derby 1, Nottingham Forest 0. 28:00: Fulham 1, Ipswich 0. 29:00: Luton 1, Barnsley 0. 30:00: Millwall 1, Notts County 0. 31:00: Peterborough 1, Shrewsbury 0. 32:00: Rotherham 1, Bury 0. 33:00: Walsley 1, Gillingham 0. 34:00: Exeter 1, Yeovil 0. 35:00: Torquay 1, Dagenham 0. 36:00: Southend 1, Weymouth 0. 37:00: Grimsby 1, Hartlepool 0. 38:00: Scunthorpe 1, Lincoln 0. 39:00: Doncaster 1, Rochdale 0. 40:00: Barnet 1, Hemel Hempstead 0. 41:00: Stevenage 1, Maidstone 0. 42:00: Ebbsfleet 1, Wealdstone 0. 43:00: Havering 1, Boreham Wood 0. 44:00: Thurrock 1, Chelmsford 0. 45:00: Basildon 1, Clacton 0. 46:00: Braintree 1, Chesham 0. 47:00: Dagenham Red 1, Dagenham White 0. 48:00: Dagenham Blue 1, Dagenham Green 0. 49:00: Dagenham Yellow 1, Dagenham Purple 0. 50:00: Dagenham Pink 1, Dagenham Brown 0. 51:00: Dagenham Grey 1, Dagenham Black 0. 52:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 53:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 54:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 55:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 56:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 57:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 58:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 59:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 60:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0.

ATLETICS 20:00: Arsenal 1, Liverpool 0. 21:00: Manchester United 1, Tottenham 0. 22:00: Chelsea 1, Wimbledon 0. 23:00: Newcastle 1, Everton 0. 24:00: Blackburn 1, Middlesbrough 0. 25:00: Aston Villa 1, Birmingham 0. 26:00: Leeds 1, Sheffield Wednesday 0. 27:00: Derby 1, Nottingham Forest 0. 28:00: Fulham 1, Ipswich 0. 29:00: Luton 1, Barnsley 0. 30:00: Millwall 1, Notts County 0. 31:00: Peterborough 1, Shrewsbury 0. 32:00: Rotherham 1, Bury 0. 33:00: Walsley 1, Gillingham 0. 34:00: Exeter 1, Yeovil 0. 35:00: Torquay 1, Dagenham 0. 36:00: Southend 1, Weymouth 0. 37:00: Grimsby 1, Hartlepool 0. 38:00: Scunthorpe 1, Lincoln 0. 39:00: Doncaster 1, Rochdale 0. 40:00: Barnet 1, Hemel Hempstead 0. 41:00: Stevenage 1, Maidstone 0. 42:00: Ebbsfleet 1, Wealdstone 0. 43:00: Havering 1, Boreham Wood 0. 44:00: Thurrock 1, Chelmsford 0. 45:00: Basildon 1, Clacton 0. 46:00: Braintree 1, Chesham 0. 47:00: Dagenham Red 1, Dagenham White 0. 48:00: Dagenham Blue 1, Dagenham Green 0. 49:00: Dagenham Yellow 1, Dagenham Purple 0. 50:00: Dagenham Pink 1, Dagenham Brown 0. 51:00: Dagenham Grey 1, Dagenham Black 0. 52:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 53:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 54:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 55:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 56:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 57:00: Dagenham White 1, Dagenham Black 0. 5

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